CONNECTING WITH GOD... THE CHURCH... YOUR PURPOSE

For the week of Sunday, March 27, 2022

Teaching Series: Welcome Home: Five Virtues of a Healthy Church

Message Title / Pastor: Evangelism: Looking Out, Pastor Rick Bernheisel

MESSAGE OVERVIEW

The primary mission of the church is to reach the lost! If we are not making disciples, we have to connect with Christ on how to be more effective in our culture and society.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 20:20–24

20 I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes. 21 I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus.

22 "And now I am bound by the Spirit[a] to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me, 23 except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. 24 But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As you read Acts 20:20-24, who is the audience that Paul is addressing? What does Paul say is his primary assignment (and by extension of Matthew 28:19 our assignment as well) in verse 24?
2. Search your heart and ask God to reveal things to you through the power of the Holy Spirit. As you soften your heart for the lost, hurting, and lonely people in our society, what are some practical steps you can take to point them to Christ?
3. What areas have you noticed where steadfast turns into stubborn? How can you hold loosely to a method that is near and dear to your heart?
4. What method or area of your life is God calling you to "lay on the cross" to reach the lost?

PRAYER

Father, we humbly come before You to soften our hearts. Give us a heart for the lost, hurting people in our society. Lord, teach us to see people through Your eyes. Help us to see those that we don't know with the same love, compassion, and tender heart that we have of those we love so easily. Help us to spread the Good News about Your wonderful grace! Help Lord to speak in ways that compel people to the cross, that compel people to thirst, hunger, and reach out for Your mercy, grace, forgiveness. Help us, Lord, to point people to Your everlasting love. In Jesus' Name, AMEN!

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