

SERIES: WHAT LIES BENEATH

Being emotionally healthy in an emotional World

SERMON - STORM TOSSED

8-28-22

OPENER:

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

(Explain Scripture)

Paul explains to the church in Ephesus why God gave pastors and teachers to the church. God did this to equip the church, to build up the body. That we grow in unity and our knowledge of the truth so that we can grow to be like Jesus. The goal is the spiritual maturity of all believers. God gave ministers and teachers to the church in order to help us grow up.

**THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE IN CHURCH.
THERE ARE MATURE CHRISTIANS AND THERE ARE
IMMATURE CHRISTIANS.**

**WHEN I SAY IMMATURE, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOUR NEWNESS TO
CHRIST.**

**I'M TALKING ABOUT THOSE WHO REFUSE TO GROW UP
IN THE TRUTH.**

ILLUSTRATION:

I call it "Pan Christianity" - We never grow up!

Like Peter Pan we don't want to grow up. We want to do what we want to do. We don't want responsibility. We don't want to have to submit to rules or structure or have any accountability. We don't want to We just want to have fun. We live for the moment! We want to do whatever we feel like doing!

AND WE ARE FOREVER A BABY REFUSING TO GROW.

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NLT) You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.

¹³ For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do

what is right. ¹⁴ Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

- > Babies depend on others to survive.
- > Babies can't feed themselves or clean themselves.
- > Babies can't get from one place to another without help.
- > Babies can easily hurt themselves without constant oversight.
- > Babies are selfish; they are only concerned about themselves.
- > And most importantly all of us would agree.....Babies allow their emotions to control them. Babies are consumed with the thought of the next diaper change or feeding. And if their feelings or needs are not met they let you know about it.

TWO THINGS:

1. BABY CHRISTIANS ARE EASILY TAKEN IN BY FALSE TEACHING

.....Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching

KJV "wind of doctrine"

Doctrine - (teaching) = a set of beliefs; a list of principles that are taught

EXAMPLE:

The Bible is a book of doctrine. A book of instruction. A set of principles to lives by. We establish our beliefs by the truth contained in this. It is the Words of God written for us to live our life by.

We all have our own doctrine = a list of beliefs in our heart. And we live our lives according to what we believe.

PERSONAL:

I believe in Big Foot! I even have a t-shirt that Abigail got me. I watch Big Foot shows. He's out there! I guess Big Foot is part of my doctrine.

2. FALSE DOCTRINE IS LIKE THE WIND

Paul says that *"the spiritually immature are tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of teaching.*

ILLUSTRATION:

False doctrine is like the wind. Wind moves things. It can easily blow you off course. And if something is not tied down or secure a strong wind can blow it away. A strong wind can destroy things that are unstable.

In Oklahoma we have tornadoes. With wind rotation so strong they are desructive.

F4, 207 to 260 mph

F5, 261 to 318 mph

F6, 319 to 379 mph

**THERE ARE LOTS OF FALSE WINDS BLOWING.
THERE ARE MANY STORMS OF FALSE TEACHING AND DOCTRINE**

ILLUSTRATION:

Matthew 14:22-27 (NLT) Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³ After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵ About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" ²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

(Explain scripture)

When "night fell"

**THERE IS A DARKNESS THAT HAS FALLEN UPON THIS EARTH.
A DARKNESS OF DECEPTION AND FALSE TEACHINGS.**

**MANY OF US ARE STORM TOSSED, WE ARE BEING TOSSED ABOUT AND
MOVED BY THESE STRONG WINDS OF FALSE TEACHING.**

**AND LIKE A STRONG WIND THEY WILL BLOW YOU OFF COURSE IF YOU ARE
NOT STABLE AND SECURE IN THE TRUTH.**

**WE ARE IN THE BOAT OF TRUTH, OF PURPOSE, OF DESTINY, SALVATION. SET
ON A COURSE TO REACH THE OTHER SIDE. WE ARE ON A JOURNEY TO
HEAVEN.**

**WE MUST HOLD ONTO TRUTH. WE MUST HOLD ONTO
THE BOAT SO THAT WE WILL NOT BE BLOWN OFF COURSE.
AND WE WILL MAKE IT TO THE OTHER SIDE.**

DO NOT FEAR - HOLD ON - CHRIST IS COMING.

FOUR FALSE TEACHINGS THAT ARE BLOWING AGAINST THE CHURCH:

1. THE WAVE OF PERMISSIVE GRACE

Many people have been rescued out of sterile, joyless, and performance-based Christianity when they learn that we are not only saved by grace, we are also daily renewed and accepted by grace. They have been delivered from a life of rules without relationship.

Grace is truly amazing. But today we are witnessing a perversion of grace in what we can call the Grace Movement: teachers who offer people grace in advance, even before they are convinced they need it.

We say, “God loves you unconditionally” and “God loves you just as you are.” This is true. God loves us without condition. God loves us all. God loves everyone. God loves us always. God loves those who go to hell.

BUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE IS INTERPRETED AS UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF ONE’S LIFESTYLE.

**GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE DOES NOT MEAN THAT GOD IS ALWAYS PLEASED WITH OUR CONDUCT.
AND IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT GOD DOES NOT DISCIPLINE US FOR OUR DISOBEDIENCE.**

Hebrews 10:26-31 (NLT) Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. ²⁷ There is only the terrible expectation of God’s judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. ²⁸ For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God’s mercy to us. ³⁰ For we know the one who said, “I will take revenge. I will pay them back.” He also said, “The Lord will judge his own people.” ³¹ It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

GRACE DOES NOT GIVE US THE PERMISSION TO SIN.

2. THE WAVE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

In the early twentieth century, many churches left off preaching the cross of Christ and replaced it with “doing good to their fellow man.” They justified their stance with verses from the Old Testament, such as “bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause” (Isaiah 1:17) and similar texts in the New Testament, where Jesus taught that when we visit His followers in prison, we are visiting Him (Matthew 25:35–40).

History is repeating itself today, but with a different twist. Many millennials, feel as if they don’t fit with the church’s conservative stance of Christianity and have chosen to devote themselves to social justice, and sadly, many of them have abandoned the doctrine of personal repentance and opted for what they see as a more practical gospel, helping the poor and needy.

Social concerns have replaced the finished work of Christ who died and rose again to save sinners, and the true gospel of saving us from sin is almost entirely neglected.

WE ARE COMMANDED TO LIVE RADICALLY LIKE CHRIST - BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT, COMMITTING OURSELVES TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.

BUT HELPING THE POOR AND NEEDY ARE NOT WHAT SAVES US.

Acts 4:12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

YOUR SALVATION IS NOT FOUND IN YOUR GOOD WORKS FOR OTHERS. YOUR SALVATION IS ONLY FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST.

BUT WE MUST SERVE OTHERS WITH A SALVATION MINDSET. ALWAYS SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD BRIDGES THAT WILL LEAD OTHERS TO ETERNAL LIFE.

If compassion motivates us to help alleviate the suffering in this present world, how much more should compassion motivate us to share the good news of Christ to alleviate their suffering in the world to come?

3. THE WAVE OF NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY

We are a "seeking" generation and uncomfortable with being told what to believe but are committed to finding a faith that is right for us. This generation is open to seeking spiritual experiences independently of Bible doctrine.

So in order to be more relevant, New Age spirituality, is often taught alongside biblical teaching in many of our churches and seminaries. New Age teachings based on mystical experiences of God are being taught rather than the Scriptures.

These teachings present God as:

- > More accessible**
- > More easily experienced without much need for specific Bible doctrines or obedience to them.**

THE ONLY SURE KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE OF GOD IS BASED ON SCRIPTURE - WHICH MUST BE BELIEVED WHETHER WE EXPERIENCE GOD OR NOT.

IT IS ONLY IN THE BIBLE THAT WE HAVE A TRUE GUIDE TO LEAD US TO ENCOUNTER GOD AND SALVATION.

Sometimes we have no experience of God at all but, “*We walk by faith, not by sight*” ([2 Corinthians 5:7](#)).

New Age talk:

- **GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY**

So basically God never says “no”. A good parent will cause their child to experience short times of unhappiness so that they can have peace, joy and security.

- **SURROUND YOURSELF WITH A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT**

>Tell that to Moses, he would have walked away from the Israelites. He would have stranded them in the desert and stayed next to the Jordan.

>Tell that to Joseph. Who was sold by his own brothers into slavery. Falsly accused by his owner; sent to prison, forgotten by those he helped and befriended.

> Tell that to Paul who in following Christ was beaten, flogged, and spent much of his ministry life in imprisoned.

> Tell that to the wife whose husband is sick and in bed and she tirelessly cares and waits on him out of her love and vows made “in sickness and in health”.

> Tell that to the student in High School who is following Jesus and standing up for what is right and facing insults and persecution and being called all kinds of names.

- **VISUALIZE IT AND IT WILL HAPPEN**

- **THE USE OF CRYSTALS**

This practice has its origin in witchcraft. I

4. THE WAVE OF SEXUAL PREFERENCE

Modern day churches are reluctant to speak the truth against sexual sins. They know the power of being shamed, despised, and targeted. They don't want to be accused of being judgmental and hating.

BUT IF WE DON'T TAKE A LOVING BUT FIRM STANCE AGAINST SEXUAL SINS WE DO DAMAGE TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. ¹¹ Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made

right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Paul was writing to a church within a culture that was with defiling sexual sins of every sort. Yet he wrote candidly about God's view of homosexual relationships and sex outside of marriage, knowing his letter would be read publicly to the congregation.

TRUTH HURTS BUT ALSO HEALS.

Things all of these false doctrines have in common:

1. THERE IS NO SUBMISSION OR SURRENDER TO GOD

These all go against our foundation

"You lose your life to find it."

"Take up your cross and follow me" Jesus said.

"Repent so that times of refreshing can come."

2. WE BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT WE REDEFINE GOD TO BECOME SOMETHING THAT FITS INTO OUR SELF-MADE DOCTRINE.

3. THERE IS NO DEPENDENCY ON GOD. WE DEPEND ON OURSELVES.

4. THERE IS NO LEADING OF GOD. WE LEAD OUR OWN LIVES. BECAUSE WE HAVE BECOME OUR OWN GOD AND KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR LIFE.