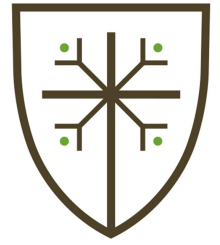


Hospitality Eternity Worship Mission

ESSENTIAL EMPHASES

FALL SERMON SERIES

SERMON NOTES



November 6, 2022

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Essential Emphases: Eternity

PREACHER

Rev. Craig Chapman

TEXTS

Job 19:23-27

Hebrews 11:32-40; 12:1-2

Luke 20:27-38

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are some of the heroes of your faith? What makes them stand out to you?
2. In what ways does spiritual formation equip us to face trials in this world?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This past Sunday, we celebrated All Saints Sunday; and, as Craig mentioned, it is an appropriate time to talk about the second “Essential Emphases” of the Church – eternity. Even though we live in one of the most comfortable ages in history, we face an unending number and variety of trials. So, how do we live with our faith still intact through the trials and tribulations of our age? Craig looked at two points to help us: (1) the Nature of the Church, and (2) the Nurture of the Church.

Nature

The Church is a worshipping community, but it is not just a local body. Every week in our creed we say we believe in “one holy catholic Church.” The Church is across the world in every place. And it is not just those who worship today, but across all times. It is ALL Saints. In our Old Testament passage from Job, we hear a statement of faith and hope from a saint who lived before the promised Redeemer was sent. The Church is not just New Testament believers looking back in faith, but Old Testament believers looking forward in faith. The Church is often described by the Church Triumphant – those saints who have died, and the Church in Testing/Trial – those saints who remain on earth. In worship, the Lord lifts us up with “the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven” as we sing, to be the one Church across the ages.

Nurture

So, how are we encouraged by the Church to press on amidst the testing and trials? Craig talked about two ways – (1) Spiritual Formation and (2) the heroes of the faith. All Saints has 10 Spiritual Formation practices as a church. These practices are intended to train and shape us in the faith so that when we encounter trials we are equipped. Secondly, we all have heroes of our faith – whether a friend or family member or spiritual leader. The book of Hebrews gives us a list of some of these “heroes” commonly called the “hall of faith.” But if we look carefully at this list, it isn’t necessarily those you’d immediately think of as heroes. They aren’t perfect. Many of them have serious missteps recorded in scripture. Craig reminded us that you are not disqualified from being an instrument of the Lord’s work no matter your missteps. So, do not sell short the Lord who dwells in you.