

Wisdom From the Word

Sermon notes – BK

May 24, 2026

GOOD MORNING!

WELCOME, to all you here and online!

ANNOUNCE THIS WEEK... (Tom)

- **Clothing closet needs men's clothes!**

(Please hold off with the title slide until it appears on page four, as it appears in the notes here... Thank you!)

As I have been praying about these last two messages I will speak as a pastor here at Central Faith -- I have taken a trip down memory lane for sure.

Remembering from the beginning...

- **Seeing Greg Ishmael (previous pastor) in the Starbucks,** sometime in September of 2015
- **Talking with Dave Browning, and the leaders of Christ The King Church Network... Regarding Christ The King Community Church in Snohomish** (The name of our church when I first got here)...
- **God leading us to apply and for the search Committee to extend the invitation... and we accepted.**
- **We tried "sneaking in" on Sunday, October 18, 2015... but we were a bit "outed."**
- **I first spoke on October 25th and you all met our family**

- November 1, I was “installed” as the pastor and we took off from there...

Boy was it a ride in those days!

- Moving buildings
- Continuing the process of building out this space
- All the decisions that I had to make out of the gate...
 - It was a stretching time!
 - It was an exciting time!
 - It was a bit of a scary time (if I am honest!)

THAT SAID...

It was the fulfilment of my heart’s desire to end the 5-years of not being in vocational ministry...

Proverbs 13:12

***Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.***

CTK Snohomish was this very thing for me...

(Back to now...)

So... I was praying through different ideas of what the last couple of messages would be on, I was first thinking it would be...

“Wisdom From the Wall”

Like pictures in a hallway of times past and what I learned from the Lord and through you all over the last 10 ½ years...

WE have been through a whole lot over these years

- A major move
- Changing our name back (sort of) to it's origins
- A little world-interrupting Pandemic – COVID19
- Recovering from that as a church in a strange new culture we now find ourselves in today...

THROUGH it all, we have seen...

- **God's goodness and grace**
- **New wonderful people join us** over the last months and years
- **The heart-challenges of those who have passed away or have moved to a different state...**

- **Through it all and through YOU all... we have seen God's amazing provision to see the ministry grow to where it is today...**

As I prayed through it however, **I did not feel like that was ultimately what the Lord wanted for today and next week...**

It has always been God's Word that has been at the heart of it all...

SO... we will take a bit of a journey, but instead of "Wisdom From the Wall" – it is...

"Wisdom From the Word"

HARD to believe, but in the last 10 ½+ years, it will be 555 Sundays next week –

I have had the privilege to speak on God's Word for at least 450 of those Sundays (*It has been important to me to have others speak here too*)...

SO... "Wisdom from the Word" makes a whole lot more sense!

Over the last several years, there have been some key passages that have led and sustained me that will continue to do so for us all...

These are passages I have taught on here over the years and thought we would do a fly-by today...

Wisdom from the Word

PRAY

- That Your Word would be fresh to us today
- That You would turn on the light, that we may see what You have for us today...
- That Your Word would truly be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path...

Through this journey over the last 10 ½ years... We have covered a lot of ground in the Bible... some of the books include –

- **Genesis**
- **Many Psalms**
- **Selected Proverbs**
- **Nehemiah**

- Jonah
- Ephesians
- Acts
- James
- John

Not to mention some different teaching series –

- Bible verses that are taken out of context
- Our mission as a church
- The basic doctrines of our faith

There are many important bricks in our foundation we have covered over the last many VERY FULL years...

I wanted to go over some of these –

- As a reminder to us of where we have been
- As an encouragement that these also inform where we are going.

As I was praying through this, I felt led to these important reminders of What God has done for us in Jesus...

These are bricks of the people of God...

Brick 1) His Redemption

Ephesians 1:7-8

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

God didn't just redeem us a little

- He *didn't put down the minimum* payment
- He *didn't skimp*
- He *did not give us His left-overs*
- He didn't take the easy road or the closest exit

God redeemed us

- By His ultimate gift,
- He gave us His best
- It cost Him to the utter most

God went all-in and gave us His best to save us

John 3:16... He gave His ONLY Son!

Without His redeeming us, we would have no hope, and no chance to walk in the fullness of who God made us to be!

Our being redeemed (bought back from sin and death) is where it all begins...

He opens the door for relationship with Him

Jesus satisfied the full payment, that we could have relationship with the Most Holy God.

He places His Holy Spirit in us, that we might be led throughout our life.

Exp...?

So grateful that He is with us, to be...

Brick 2) He is the Perfect Shepherd

Psalm 23 (we spent like 5 or 6 weeks here!)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

forever.

John 10:11

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Of course, there is a whole lot here (at least a month's worth!) – but with this foundational brick –

- We have the assurance of His presence

- We have THE ONE with us at all times to provide JUST what we need
- We have the promise of all of that today... and a hope rooted in Him for our future (dwell in Your house forever...)

In this place of relationship and assurance, God gives us His mission!

Brick 3) His Mission to Build His Kingdom

Nehemiah speaks to the fruit of tenaciously following God's lead to re-build what the enemy has destroyed... and it was miraculously accomplished!

Nehemiah 4:6

⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah 6:15

¹⁵ So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

All of this points to the Lord leading and providing all we need, that we may do as Jesus directed His disciples –

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

For us, as a church, we have this instruction –

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

We have seen that there are many times when there is opposition, obstacles and obstinate people!

Sometimes, we just need encouragement from one another, and from the Lord to keep doing what he has called us to do...

Brick 4) He is our only source of hope. He is the only One who is able...

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Through it all, and into the next season the Lord is leading us all into, we put our hope squarely on God –

It is in Him we find all we need...

Because of this, we must abide in Him.

- Some are great at this... but there is room to grow!
- Some are just beginning in this – know abiding in Jesus is essential

We ALL need to be reminded sometimes...

Brick 5) It is in Him that We Abide

John 15:4

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

Abide – stay there... remain...

- In His hope
- In His peace
- In His presence

We will not be effective at building the Body of Christ, if we are trying to go it alone... we need each-other!

Brick 6) We Live in the Unity He Provides

John 17:20-23

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

It does not matter where we are located... we are ALL partnering with the Holy Spirit to do the same thing...

And God has given us His Spirit to work in us to do this together, no matter where we are in the world!

Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

THIS is the ONE thing Jesus prays for.

The ONE thing on the heart of Jesus for “those who will believe...”

That we would be ONE... (see the banners)

We have had lots of opportunity for disunity in the Body these last 10 ½ years!

- COVID and all that went with it
 - Masks or not
 - Vax or not
 - Gather or not
 - Etc...
- Social Media
- Politics
- Religious opposition – Especially Islam in our country...
- Regular old pride and opinions of those in the church!

- THIS is a given... The enemy does not want us to be united!

This is nothing new – just new clothes, but I we must remember...

1 John 4:4

4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

“...he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

Our Christian culture often puts the value of a church by its size, by a trackable impact of ministry, or by the how many people have heard of it...

We have all done this...

But that’s not what Jesus does!

Just read Revelation 2&3...

We are to be people of God who –

- Walk faithfully and humbly**
- Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit**
- Trust Him for the rest**

PAUSE

Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.