

Outline

I. God Has Called Us to a Great Work

- A. The Purpose of Church
 - Not just a checkbox in life
 - A place for lives to be changed through the Gospel
 - Man is separated from God; He redeems humanity
 - Ephesians 2:4-5
- B. How the Gospel Works
 - The law repels, the gospel attracts (Charles Spurgeon)
 - The gospel bridges the chasm between God and man
- C. The Uniqueness of the Work
 - Different tools and approaches
 - Outreach, invitations, unique opportunities
- D. How Lives Are Changed
 - Begins with the current group
 - Individual transformation for God's glory (1 Corinthians 6:11)
 - God gives a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26)
 - God works through us to impact others
- E. Avoiding Pride
 - The work is about the Lord, not us
 - We are called uniquely but also unified
 - Different roles, same call, same outcome
 - Hebrews 10:24-25

II. The Enemy Is Aware and Responds with Destruction

- A. The Reality of Spiritual Warfare
 - 1 Peter 5:8 - Satan prowls like a roaring lion
 - Man is the target of Satan's attacks (A.W. Tozer)
 - Armor of God (Ephesians 6)
 - Resist the devil (James 4:7)
- B. Forms of Attack
 - Spiritual warfare (referenced 4 times in Nehemiah)
 - Not a one-time battle
- C. Division as a Weapon
 - The enemy desires to divide us
 - This attacks Jesus' prayer for unity (John 17:20-23)
 - We must be mindful and turn from division
 - Question: Do you enjoy division to be right?
 - Called to be a church of reconciliation

III. The Work Will Be Inviting and Others Will Want to Come

- A. God's Word Will Spread
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:1
 - Don't be nervous about growth
- B. The Danger of Losing Sight
 - When we don't believe in the good work
 - When we fall to the enemy's schemes
 - When we stop participating in growth

IV. Keep Your Eyes Fixed on Jesus

- A. The Command
 - Hebrews 12:2 - Fixing our eyes on Jesus
 - Greek: Turn eyes away from all other things
 - Hebrew: Meditate with focused physical and mental discipline
- B. Benefits of Keeping Eyes Fixed
 1. Rescue from enslavement (Psalm 25:15)
 2. Gives courage (Psalm 16:8)
 3. Keeps eternity in mind (Colossians 3:1-2)
- C. Final Thought
 - Commitment, not size, matters