

Topical Message –19 February 2023

“The Whole Counsel Of God”

Opening Scriptures & Background

Read Mark 12:18-27 – *Sadducees re: resurrection*

1. “You do err not knowing Scripture”
2. What was Jesus wanting them to see?
 - a. They didn’t know & believe the scriptures from Exo 3:6 w/ Moses at burning bush
 - b. Scripture is saying “I currently am...”

Read Luke 19:28-42 – *Pharisees re: Jesus’s Day*

1. Getting the colt
 - a. How can we even understand what He’s doing unless we have read Zec 9:9
2. This was the 10th day 1st month
 - a. John was saying Jesus is the Lamb of God
 - b. Had they known & believed Exo 12:1-6 they would have been ready
3. Not just the day of the year, but the VERY day
 - a. Dan 9 details out this very March 6, 32 AD
 - b. They didn’t know / believe Zec, Exo & Dan

Read Luke 24:13-26 - *Two average Israelites*

1. “Ought not Christ to have suffered?”
2. What was Jesus wanting them to see?
 - a. They didn’t know & believe the scriptures from Gen 22, Lev 13, Psalms 22, Isa 52-53, etc
 - b. Scriptures anticipated Messiah to suffer/die
3. These two men were in a dark fog & despair
 - a. But it was preventable by knowing Bible

We too are in dark spiritual days

1. Pew Research Center – 2014 Religious Landscape Study
 - a. Does God exist?
 - i. Only 63% of Americans are certain
 - ii. Only 88% of Evangelicals are certain
 - b. Belief in Evolution
 - i. 62% of Americans
 - ii. 38% of Evangelicals
 - c. Abortion should be legal?
 - i. 53% of Americans say yes
 - ii. 33% of Evangelicals say yes
2. Both Evolution & Abortion destroy our value in human life made in the image of God

So Where Did This Problem Come From?

Read Gen 3:1-8

1. The Fall of Man introduced a culture striving for image instead of living by the Word of God
2. We were always intended to be in a Word-based relationship with God
3. We've replaced the Word of God with image
 - a. We want Entertainers instead of Trainers
 - b. We want Comedy instead of Clarity
4. "Satan's greatest weapon is man's ignorance of God's Word" -A.W. Tozer
 - a. Our Lord Jesus fought & won against such temptations of Satan by quoting Word of God
 - b. Devil wants to church disarmed & helpless
 - c. The Great Commission isn't to go heal or do charity or evangelize, but to teach & make disciples

Sinful Man Always Drifts Into Wanting Others To Remain In Ignorance In Order To Retain Power

The Slave Bible at 'Museum of the Bible' (Pub 1807)

1. Missing 90% of OT & 50% of NT
2. Produced by Europeans wanting "to evangelize Negroes of the Caribbean Islands & Americans"
3. All done b/c "we're helping them to read"
4. Can't tell wives to submit to husbands (Eph 5) w/o telling husbands to love wives
 - a. We cannot treat partial scripture as the whole without violating the parts we do give

"Ignorance of God is the root weakness of the church"
-J.I. Packer

1. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, the Church needs to be the solution to this problem not perpetuating it
2. God's Word is the cure and we're the method He's chosen to use to bring the light of the Gospel

How Does The Church Implement The Solution?

Go back to Jesus's response in (Read) Luke 24:25-27

1. They were in a fog b/c they didn't know & believe the whole Bible
2. Jesus is all thru the OT – He's the purpose & the person of the whole Bible
3. We need to begin at Genesis & go thru it all

Read Acts 20:17-31 – *Paul w/ the Elders of Ephesus*

1. Vs 17-21 – “Kept back nothing profitable”
 - a. What is profitable? “All scripture is given by inspiration of God & is profitable for doctrine, reproof correction & instruction in righteousness” (II Tim 3:16)
2. Vs 22-27
 - a. Paul considered himself pure – that's strong
 - b. Could only say that b/c of vs 27
 - c. Jesus beat temptation w/ “Every Word...”

Nehemiah 8:1-8 – *Ezra emphasized the Word*

1. Vs 1-3 – Time takes discipline, but we're disciples
2. Vs 5-8 – There's no substitute for knowing God

What We're Missing By Not Learning Whole Bible?

1. We're missing proper understanding

- a. Learning OT brings the context we need to learn the NT
- b. John 5:39 – They mistakenly thought the OT was designed to bring life – it wasn't, it was designed to show our sin & need of Savior
- c. John 5:45-47 – They lacked knowing, believing & valuing the whole Bible – that would have pointed them to Jesus the Savior

2. We're missing Proper Motivation

- a. Rom 12:1-2 – Do these things, but why?
- b. There are only 3 motivators in life; what motivates us to pursuit our passions?
 - i. The lowest form of *motivation is based on fear of punishment*
 1. This isn't wrong, but simply limited

ii. There's *motivation based on the promise of reward*

1. This is true and has value, but is there something greater?

iii. The highest form of *motivation is based on love*

1. Once you have the heart you have everything

c. Rom 12:1-2 makes sense in light of Rom chap 1-11!!!

i. Don't miss the word 'therefore' in vs 1

ii. Once we see all that God is & what He's done for us in chap 1-11, THEN chap 12 makes sense

3. Again with Husbands & Wives roles

a. If only "wives submit to your husbands" is given – we will both misunderstand AND not be properly motivated to see the benefits!

In Closing

1. Most “good” churches today use about 30-50% of the Bible’s text b/c the format is topical
2. “Didn’t American Reformers used topicals?”
 - a. Mostly, b/c they were preaching to the Biblically literate
 - b. Topicals aren’t helpful for a culture like our that wasn’t raised learning alphabet from Bible
 - c. Need to evangelize & then preach like Isaiah
 - i. Read Isa 28:9-10
3. We would never skip around while using others books – It’s harmful with the Bible as well
4. Some teach mostly prophecy (future), some teach mostly the history (the past)
 - a. Need to teach history AND the prophecy
 - i. Each section balances the other sections out
 - ii. Each section proclaims our great God Jesus
5. There are many parts to our Christianity
 - a. Evangelism, service, worship, etc
 - b. Can’t do any of it correctly or completely unless we know the whole counsel of God