



## Rooted Series Part 2

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Rooted in The Church - January / Rooted in The Home - February

Please Stand for the Reading of God's Word

Psalm 92:10-15 - <sup>10</sup>But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil. <sup>11</sup>My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants. <sup>12</sup>The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. <sup>13</sup>They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. <sup>14</sup>They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and

**green,<sup>15</sup> to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. (You May Be Seated)**

Notice the words of the Psalmist in verses 13, **<sup>18</sup>They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.**” They are planted in the House; but if one is planted in the House then that means that they are rooted in the House and it is their roots that establishes their capacity to grow.

Many years ago, I heard the following thought expressed but I’ve taken the liberty to add to it slightly; You show me a man or woman with a Bible that’s falling apart and I’ll show you a Man or Woman of God whose life is falling into place. However, you show me a man or woman whose Bible is collecting dust and I’ll show you someone who will spend their entire lives collecting the broken pieces of their lives because they made themselves and their wants and their needs a priority over the Word of God and over the Assembly of God.

We need to be Rooted in the House of God, the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and in the very Will of God! And the Will of God for every Bible believing Christian is to be found faithful to the things of God and to be rooted in the House of God! But too many of us are far too comfortable in our Pots and refuse to be rooted!

Church Family, Religion is flawed. Religion is flawed because Man is flawed. And many have used this excuse to render themselves exempt from being connected in partnership with the local Church but I would like to submit that if Christ can work through you as being flawed then how can we state that Christ can't work through a flawed Church because if you are the Church and we are the Church then are you not also excluding yourself from Christ ever using you because of your flaws as well?

Imperfection doesn't minimize the call; it amplifies the need for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to walk out the call! The Call of Christ upon our lives is a Holy Calling! We are the Church but we all, also, need the Church; as an organization and institution as well as the Ecclesia because we can accomplish far more together than we can individually. Our corporate anointing is far greater than our individual anointings; this is why we all need to make the step to get out of our pots and get rooted in the soil of this House!

It is that corporate anointing that is such a vital part of being planted and rooted in the House of God which propels our need for partnership, friendship, and leadership as we all press towards the prize of the High Calling that is in Christ Jesus.

But too many of us enjoy our pots; too many of us are potted and have been for years. Our pots are comfortable; they are safe and too many Christians never remove themselves from the Pot and Plant themselves in the House of God because we don't want the responsibility of committing, we only want the benefit of being catered too. And there's a massive problem with that and here is why... Point #1

**Point #1 - Unrooted People will always Leave when they are Pruned!** I want us all to be rooted in the House of God. Planted firmly in the soil of The Assembly West Monroe as we prepare our hearts, our homes and this great house for the return of the Lord. God has not called us to be Potted but rather Planted and if planted, then rooted. But too many Church folks are potted and not planted!

Like Potted Plants, Potted Christians fail to understand that pruning is more necessary all the more when they are potted because the pot prohibits the plant from producing its full capacity! And just like these plants, Potted Christians always leave when they are corrected or reproofed and they leave because they are rooted in a pot and not rooted in the House.

Shout, "You got to be rooted in the House". The Apostle Paul declared in his letter to the Church at Rome in Romans 12:4-8 the following concerning the Church Body and its function.

Romans 12:4-8, “<sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Church family, you will never progress into what Christ is calling you into until you set down roots and get planted in the House! You will never grow up in Christ until you get rooted in His Church!

Rooted people don't run when times get tough; rooted people endure, press forward and stand firm. Rooted people don't walk out when difficulty walks in. Rooted people have some grit to their faith and some saltiness to their lives.

And my goal today is to get all of us out of the pots and to get all of us planted in the House! Rooted plants, like rooted Christians, don't uproot when they are pruned, developed and tweaked. They endure the trimming because pruning always brings new growth and new fruit. Ladies and gentlemen, if the Word of God is not pruning you then you will never walk in the Purpose of God.

Rooted Christians, who are established in the House of God, don't uproot when they are corrected; They embrace improvement rather than run from it. You show me an offended Christian and I'll show you an unrooted Christian who is uncorrectable and uncoachable.

The current state of our nation is a direct reflection of the current state of the Church - we don't respect leadership, we don't want to hear the Truth, we don't seek peace and understanding but rather conflict and war, we thrive on gossip and backbiting rather than growing and maturing in Christ, we want everything done our way in our time on someone else's dime, we want the benefits of the Kingdom without investing in the Kingdom, we listen to everyone else's opinions on the matter rather than going to the person with whom the matter involves. Any of this sound familiar?

Potted Christians will always Move when they are Pruned but Rooted Christians don't uproot when they are being developed by the Doctrine of the Word! They endure the pruning because pruning always brings new growth. If you want to progress in your Faith then you need a Pastor who is willing to tell you the Truth in love and teach you the Word... And Church family I want to be your Pastor but, as your Pastor, I have a holy responsibility to lead and guide you in Truth as best I know how. And Church I'm doing the best I can do.

Our focus as a Church this year can be defined in one word: Discipleship. We need to be disciplined in the Things of God! And you are going to hear more of this in the coming months with the emphasis of our sermon series as we strive to better develop, teach, and lead this Church body in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. But not only will unrooted people leave when they are pruned, Point #2...

### Point #2 - Unrooted People will always Flee from Sound Doctrine!

The Apostle Paul spoke of this very matter in 2 Timothy 4:1-4, “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,<sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the Truth and wander off into myths.”

“Well that Pastor preaches too hard, He uses too much Scripture in his messages, He's too deep, He demands too much, He shouts too much, He's too serious, He's too intense” These are all things I've heard from people within or without our Church body which confuses and confounds me.

There are 168 hours a week and I am asking for you to be faithful to 4 of those being invested here in your attendance, participation and support. But too many in the modern Church want cute little messages, with cute little jokes and cute little scriptures from cute little preachers with cute little attires that don't convict, don't correct or don't prune. Messages that don't challenge us and spur us on towards a righteous standard. I'm not talking about being strictly convicted of Sin but also being convicted of Righteousness!

If you are looking for that warm and fuzzy preaching and leadership here then you are looking in the wrong place. "Well Pastor you are just old school and if you had been born 50 years ago then your preaching and the style thereof would be more culturally applicable. Why can't you be more relative to our modern culture?" Because everything about the Kingdom of God is counter culture and I am not striving to be culturally relevant, I'm striving to be Biblically Powerful!

I am accountable to Christ for how I lead His Church; I am not accountable to the hearers, nor the preferences thereof. And if I am doing my job well, that means that I am teaching the full counsel of the Word of God with Power and Demonstration. Jesus said that these signs shall follow those who believe and I want to be one who has signs and wonders following for the sake of kingdom impact rather than be consumed with trying to be culturally relevant



Cultural relevance doesn't have the power to cast out a devil, lay hands on the sick, counsel a broken marriage or disciple others in the things of God! I don't want our Church to be relevant! I want our Church to be powerful!!! Too many Churches have sacrificed sound doctrine upon the altar of cultural relevance because they are more consumed with their message being acceptable than impactful; they are more consumed with their message appeasing the masses than imploring the righteous remnant.

Sound doctrine is not a cuss word but many of us don't want to hear sound doctrine because then we are accountable to it. **The Apostle Paul declared in Titus 1:9, "He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."** "rebuke those who contradict it!"

What I came looking for today are some folks who are willing to step out of the Pot and into the soil of The Assembly West Monroe! I came looking for some folks to set down their roots, to get settled, to get stable, to set their feet firmly in this house and to anchor their soul around the Rock of Ages.

I'm going to preach the whole counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation, I am not a self-help coach nor am I a spiritual nanny who changes diapers and powders bottoms. I will not coddle you in your sin nor will I condone any action or lifestyle that contradicts the teachings of the Bible. Period.

Here me clearly today, as your Pastor and as for the Pastoral staff of this great house, We will walk through hell with you but We will not condone of you to live there!

I am a preacher, I am a Pastor and I am going to lead this Church forward to manifest what our founding members and founding Pastor set our course to be as Heaven ordained it. Jesus is looking for His Bride, He is looking for His Church, to be without spot or blemish but too many in this post-modern age Church are childish, immature, and selfish. Constantly playing the victim rather than stepping into the role of a Victor in Christ Jesus.

Church family, it's time to grow up! Christ is returning for a mature Bride, not an immature, self-centered brat who has all of the assets to be a wife but not the mental and spiritual capacity to perform her duties! Church, if the Holy Ghost can't convict you and the Word can't correct you then you are not rooted in Christ!

But not only will Unrooted People Flee from Sound Doctrine, point #3...

**Point #3 – Unrooted People will always complain about a lack of rain because they have no roots!**

**(Pastor Brad will you come)**

Too many of us depend solely on someone else as our source! Potted Christians depend on the water pales of others to survive and to make up for their lack of spiritual formation and development. It's time to get out of the Pot! Too many Christians use the excuse, "I'm just not being fed and I feel the Lord leading me to leave and go to another Church."

First off, it is not my job to feed you, it is my job to lead you to the place where you feed yourself. Psalm 23:1-3 records, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup>He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

Church family, it is not my job to feed you, it is my job to lead you to places of resources where you choose to feed yourself. The Water of the Word and the Meat of Doctrine will be found in this pulpit every time I stand behind this sacred desk but it is left to you to partake of it. The Apostle Paul recorded in Romans 12:3, "<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."

And just as we all have a measure of faith that is left to us to develop, nurture and grow upon, we must also take our personal discipleship as the same. Far too many only run to Christ in the midst of adversity and then retreat away once it's over.

These are potted Christians because their constant cry is “water me preacher, tend to me Pastor” not realizing that it is their pot and not the Pastor that is the problem. Their roots are prohibited from diving deep into the soil because the pot has become its barrier of breakthrough.

Rooted trees don’t complain about a lack of rain; they simply send their roots down deeper. Rooted Christians live in a perpetual state of breakthrough because they are planted and not potted. I understand that some of what I just said may fly in the face of Religion and perhaps even the perspective of some Christians as to what a Pastor should do and ought to be. However allow me to use the Bible to validate my point.

In the Book of Acts chapter 2, The Bible records the following verses 42-43, “<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”

Allow me, if you will, a few minutes to dissect this verse to provide a biblical context and perspective of how the first century Church conducted themselves as Disciples of Christ. Notice verse 42, “And they devoted themselves”. Notice it doesn’t say, “And the preacher had to coheres them to be faithful” or “The apostles had to use fear to force them to be devoted” or “a famous prophet had to come and preach and promise new cars and houses to everyone to make sure they attended”.

I'm being facetious but you get my point. It says that they took personal responsibility for themselves and they held themselves accountable, "And they devoted themselves". They saw the value of devotion to the things of God.

But what did they devote themselves to Exactly? Four specific items are listed: the Apostle's Teachings, the Fellowship (which speaks to Corporate Church gatherings), the breaking of bread (which speaks to building community and relationship) and to prayer (private spiritual development and communion with the Heavenly Father).

This is how the first century facilitated a move of God that shook the nations and built an organization and institution that has stood the test of two millennia of time. They devoted themselves to the study of the doctrines and teachings of the Apostles and of Christ (but too many of us want the Pastor to be devoted for us and we take no personal responsibility to do so ourselves), they made corporate Church gatherings a priority (stop making excuses and get your tail in Church), they spent time with one another via breaking bread with one another because relationships are important (they saw the value of one another; the church saw the value of one another), and they made time for prayer and building their relationship with the Father.

It seems simple doesn't it? Learn and develop your faith by the study of the Word, make Church attendance a priority, find some folks of the faith to build strong relationships with and make communion through prayer and supplication with your heavenly father a daily necessity. Far too many are crying out for revival and the manifestation of the Power of God but far too many of those refuse to make any of the previously listed points a daily focus of devotion. You want to know what the outcome is of making the four points I just listed a priority in your life? Simply put, you will see the supernatural demonstration of God as a daily occurrence.

Notice the second verse, **“<sup>48</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”** The word in the Greek for AWE is the Greek term “Phobos” which interprets to mean fear or alarm regarding reverence or respect. The First Century Church was devoted to the before mentioned items as well as they had a great reverence and respect for the Apostles, for their leaders, and it was because of their respect and reverence for their spiritual leaders of the house that many wonders and signs were being made manifested through the Apostles. I'm going to give the recipe for revival are you ready?

1. Develop your Faith by the Study of the Word
2. Make Church attendance a priority
3. Find some folks of the faith to build strong relationships with

4. Make communion through prayer and supplication with your Heavenly Father a daily necessity
5. Lastly, honor and support your Spiritual Leadership

The First Century Church saw Revival, saw miracles, signs and wonders because they were rooted in the Church of God and Devoted to the Things of God! And if we want to see the same, we must do the same. It is time to get Rooted...