



Rooted Series Part 1

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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 - ¹⁰But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil. ¹¹My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants. ¹²The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. ¹³They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of

our God. ¹⁴They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, ¹⁵ 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 and 14, ¹³They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, ¹⁵ to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no

unrighteousness in him.” They are planted in the House of the Lord; but if one is planted in the house of the Lord then that means that they are rooted in the House of the Lord because their roots establish their fruitfulness. No Root. No Fruit. But as for me, I want to be rooted in the House of the Lord; can I get an honest amen in the house this morning?

Rooted. Defined, the term, in the form of an adjective, means absolutely still. Therefore if one were to say that their Faith was rooted then it would also mean that their Faith is absolutely still; it is stable, it is solid and it is immovable. Their Faith is Rooted. And during this unstable time in our nation and in our world, we need to be rooted; we need to be absolutely still because we have rooted ourselves to the Rock of Ages.

2020 revealed many things to us; the greatest in my personal opinion is our lack of stability and the immovability of our Faith within the Church itself.

Christians have walked away from God because of presidential elections, this supposed pandemic, stock market crashes, and whole host of other excuses because they tethered their faith to the arm of flesh rather than the Arm of God.

Christians have thrown their faith away due to frivolity and cast the idea of the local church to the wind. One thing that I have learned in life is this; **Point #1 - Unrooted Christians Are Always Unstable.**

My Bible tells me that a double minded man is unstable in all of his ways and our present season has clearly delineated to whom or what we have tethered our lives to.

But as for me and as for my house, we will be found Rooted in the Word of God! We will be found Rooted in the Call of God! We will be found Rooted in the Will of God! We will be found Rooted in the Spirit of God! We will be found Rooted in the House of God!

The Apostle Paul noted in Hebrews 10:19-25, **“¹⁹Therefore, brothers,¹⁹ since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one**

another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Notice the last verse found in this text, “²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” We live in a day and an hour to where if we ever needed to make the Household of Faith a priority then it is right now! And if things get worse in our nation, and there is a great possibility of that happening, we will need one another for community, for resource, for encouragement and for sustainability. Church family, each and every one of us need one another now more than we ever have.

Now the following statement is going to be very forthright and I want to be abundantly clear that I am not addressing this to everyone but rather to whom it may apply so filter my words and discern. But not only are Unrooted Christians Always Unstable, **Point #2 - Unrooted Christians Are Perpetually Unreliable**

I’ve heard more rhetoric from people in the last year shouting that the Church is essential and should be open. And I firmly agree. However too many of these same people never found the Church to be essential to attend before COVID19 so why are you now seeking to uphold an institution that you were never devoted to, to begin with?

These same folks don't serve, don't give, don't tithe, don't support their pastor, have no stable church attendance record to speak of, don't pray for their leadership, have a critical spirit and a terrible attitude, but they want to try to impress others with their religious talk and when they are corrected because of these issues, they play the victim. Hypocrite!

We have pre-service prayer meeting and you won't show up; we have church every Sunday and Wednesday where we preach the uncompromised Word of the Living God and folks won't attend faithfully and then wonder why their lives and families are falling apart. We have weekly church services and you show up once a month but want to call yourself a faithful member. This is the equivalent to having a gym membership and stopping by once a month but claiming to be a fitness nut.

Continuing on... (Well Pastor, I don't want to go to church for fear of COVID) well no problem, we have virtual broadcasts to teach you the Word of God and you won't tune in; we are on Facebook, YouTube, the church website, the church app and we broadcast our church service a dozen times a week on our local television station so you have no excuse and yet you still claim to have one.

We relaunched our youth ministries to minister to your teenagers and you won't get them to the Church. If you can't live for Christ in this current season then you are deceiving yourself if you think that you will be able to stand as a faithful one of the Way in the days that are to come.

We live in the days that Jesus spoke of, the Apostles warned of, Prophets had visions of and Preachers have proclaimed of as signs of the coming of the Lord over the past 100 years but too many have chosen to be willfully ignorant all the while stopping up their ears with their fingers shouting for bible preaching Pastors and clergy to be silent. You want to rattle your sabers because you are more concerned about what others perceive about you than what our Heavenly Father knows about you. You are more concerned with how people perceive you on Facebook rather than comparing your life to the sound doctrine found within His BOOK!

IT'S CALLED THE BIBLE!

THE B I B L E THAT'S THE BOOK FOR ME!

But not only are Unrooted Christians Perpetually Unreliable, **Point #3, Unrooted Christians are Constantly Offended.** And if you get offended and leave the church over my message today then you need to check your heart because I am telling you the unedited truth but too many of us don't want to hear it. If your offense keeps you out of church then your offense will keep you out of heaven; and too many people use church hurt as an excuse to not go to church. And on that note, I am sick and tired of hearing about folks claiming church hurt over a matter when in actuality you are butt hurt because someone corrected you.

Too many churches are just trying to go about Church as usual and too many in church leadership are just moseying along as if nothing is going on, afraid to address any cultural, political or spiritual matters in fear of their budgets being impacted or their influence being tarnished or God forbid someone say something bad on Facebook or the dreaded “block” button be pressed.

I encourage you to **Block away!** Because you will not silence this preacher, you will not silence this church, and you will not silence the **Message of the Cross!**

My God, I’m trying to tell you the truth, I am trying to sound the alarm, I am trying to blast the trumpet in Zion and we are more consumed with being offended because our feelings got hurt because Truth offended us rather than embracing the fact that what I am saying is true and right. But too many of us strive for darkness to prohibit the exposure of our deeds and we don’t want a Pastor to tell us when we are wrong and living in direct opposition against God’s Word, we want a self-help coach to approve our foolishness. We would rather watch a YouTube preacher who will stroke our ego than belong to a church where a Pastor who will correct our lives for the sake of our eternal souls and tell us the unedited, Biblically based Truth.

Jesus said in John 3:19-21, “¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

And if I, as the Pastor of this church, can't correct you as being a part of our Church body then I am not your Pastor because if I were, you would hear and receive what I am saying. I am not trying to be mean, I am trying to protect us; I am trying to prepare this House.

Jesus declared in the Gospel of Saint Luke 6:46-49, “⁴⁶ “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.^[c] ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

And I can completely understand the frustration of Jesus in this text because there were those calling him Lord and refused to listen to His words and too many calls me Pastor but don't listen to wise counsel and teachings that I provide from the Word of God! Church family, there is a storm brewing around us in our nation and around the world and I fear that too many of us are not paying attention to the signs, not looking around themselves, and refusing to hear the cries of a Pastor who sincerely loves and cares about this church.

It is a sad day in America when Churches are being forced to shut down but strip clubs, and other sinful dwellings are free to operate because it is ok to exploit a woman for the sake of local market stimulation rather than allow an institution to be open that can save her soul and protect her from exploitation.

You are my people and I need you to hear my heart today. I'm begging you. Something in my spirit man is crying out "brace yourself". I preached an entire message on this matter in October but how many of us actually listened? How prepared are you for what is coming? Spiritually, Mentally, Financially and with adequate resources to take care of your family? "Well Pastor all of this sounds far-fetched..." I hear you but Noah was a conspiracy theorist until it started to rain...

People raised Cain when I shut the church down in March of 2020 due to COVID hitting and called me a fake and a phony because “If you were really a man of Faith then you would trust God and keep your doors open. Some man of Faith you are”

But what’s amazing is that these same people who ridiculed me for closing our doors haven’t darkened the doors of our church since we reopened in August of 2020. So where you at? Yeah, I said it and I’m not apologizing for it. I want it publicly known and understood that I am the Pastor of this House and not you, I am eternally responsible for this House and not you, and I refuse to lend my ear nor my emotions to those who want to attack this house and undermine my leadership because you think you know better. If you knew better and were as good as you thought you were then you’d be in this role and not me but alas we find ourselves where that’s not the case.

I am not going to fight the Devil, Demonic spirits and the evil in this world and then also have to fight with church members and ex-church members to lead this Church as we fight forward and contend for the Faith. My Bible tells me in Proverbs 29:25, “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.” And I refuse to fear man or their words...

It is a New Day at The Assembly and if there was ever a season that should have broken this church it was 2020. And until you understand the burden of command and having to bear the burden that I have borne for this church in the last year, you will never fully understand the time, mental and emotional taxation, prayer, effort, supplications, sleepless nights, spiritual attacks, logistics, manpower, and the loss of time with my wife and my children that it has taken to survive the past twelve months to course correct our organization.

We've weathered an absolutely impossible situation under my leadership and have successfully righted the ship so, in the days ahead, please don't be critical but rather prayerful; I need your support and not subversion. I'm asking you to stand with me as we embark into 2021 because 2021 is not going to be a cake walk but we can weather any storm so long as we are united and in one accord.

But not only are Unrooted Christians Constantly Offended, **Point #4, Unrooted Christians are Unwilling To Fight To Protect The Church.**

In closing, I want to be absolutely clear and unquestionably concise with my stance on the following matter. I will not, I repeat, I will not submit our church nor subject our church body to draconian law nor to the abuses of power from institutions that are in direct violation of our religious rights, constitutional rights, amendment rights and civil rights.

We will not bend. We will not break. We will not yield. We will never give in. We will never give up and we will never back down. We will never surrender. We will not shut down. We will not stop having services. We will not be silent. We will not bow. We will not be good little servants to the State. We will not be sheep lead to the slaughter. We are the Church of the Living God and We will not back down from a fight.

As Christians we owe our allegiance to the Church. Jesus said that the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against His church and nor shall rogue government authorities, abuses of power, draconian law or any other governmental or political leader who seeks to do the Church of Jesus Christ harm.

And as Americans, we owe our allegiance to the Constitution of this Great Land and We the People. Our Nation exists because of We the People and functions By the People and For the People. But our nation's leaders have forgotten that; both Republican and Democrat.

I declared the following in October of 2020 from this pulpit and I will declare it again for everyone to hear! Churches around America are still shut down due to the abuses of power by State Governors, Churches are being sued and financially crippled because the Church is a threat to the ideology of communism and socialism that is being propagated in our Nation.

A Dominating Government hates free men and women, no matter their skin color, creed or gender, who think for themselves, as well as religious men and women who pray to the God of Heaven and Earth and not the god of government, and small business owners who don't depend on the government dole nor bow their knee to draconian law.

Communism and Socialism are failed social experiments because both philosophies suggest equality but both strip freedom of thought, speech and expression in exchange for slavery to political idolatry; don't believe me look at Communist China or Socialist Russia.

As an American, I prefer dangerous freedom over comfortable bondage! Our Nation needs the Local Church and the Local Small Business industry. Period. We Are Essential and no one, no matter their title or position, reserves the right to tell us that we are not essential. Churches are being fined by cities and states for having services which is a First Amendment Right as an American Citizen. And don't even get me started on the abuses, devastation and annihilation of the small business industry in America.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution read as thus, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The Second Amendment of the United States reads as thus, “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.”

The Second Amendment is the enforcement clause of the First Amendment and the Second Amendment protects our rights as sovereign citizens to protect our lives, our property and our loved ones from those who would seek to do us harm. The Second Amendment is not permission to hunt; it is a protection of our rights to protect ourselves.

And ladies and gentlemen, if the First and Second Amendments of the Constitution of the United States are violated and then the freedom of the Church and the protection of the individual will be exiled; that includes you and that includes me. The American Church is under fire by a Liberal Agenda that wants to silence the Church, muzzle its preachers, and cripple it financially in so that it cannot operate. And this is happening in America right now as I speak.

Houses of Worship are not propaganda centers as some in our government have claimed and Pastors should never bow down to political pressure to be silent when things in our local, state and federal government are wrong. Many may say, “Well, I don’t think that Pastors should get involved politically. Preachers need to stick to preaching the Bible and stay out of politics due to the separation of church and state. Everybody knows that Jesus was never political...”

First off, you need to go and read on the context of the separation of church and state; the premise was to prohibit the government from controlling the church. Sound familiar?

Secondly, if you think this way then you have never read your Bible! John the Baptist ridiculed government and the leaders within it and was beheaded for it, The Prophet Jeremiah lead a political movement to restore the city of Jerusalem, The Prophet Daniel was used in Babylon and its politics almost cost him his life but God intervened and Daniel's adherence to his convictions and His God ultimately changed the course of the nation, and Joseph saved Egypt because He interpreted a dream that elevated him to the most power political figure in Egypt second only to Pharaoh himself and even Jesus stood against corruption, sinful practice of politicians and religious leaders, and influenced a nation of people.

Each of these figures influenced political issues that changed the course of Nations and protected God's people. But let's bring it to more of our modern era, shall we? Have any of you ever heard of the Black Robe Regiment? It was a regiment in the Continental Army of Priests and Pastors and Clergy who helped to win the Revolutionary War against England and helped to found our Nation. Preachers engaged politically and helped to birth this nation.

Or perhaps Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was a German Lutheran Priest, theologian and helped the unground resistance of Germans fight against Adolf Hitler to overthrow the Third Reich and even late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

So do not attempt to put me in a box and tell me that Pastors and Clergy are not supposed to stand up and address political issues that directly affect their church and congregations. Too many have said, “Well Pastor all we can do is pray because it’s all in God’s hands...” Too many of us are consumed with Prayer but too few of us are willing to act; if it is in God’s hands then why can’t you be used as the hands of God in the Earth to bring change and save our nation?

Far too often we use prayer as an excuse to forfeit our responsibilities to bring change by our actions and involvement. As the pastor of this house, I pray over our church and I lead our church. I pray and I act on my prayers. And just as I pray and act by leading this church, I am going to pray and act politically as well.

“Well Pastor, the first century church died as martyrs so why are you trying to rally us if it is God’s will for us to suffer the same end?” First off, the first century church did not have the Constitution, a legal document to protect them from the abuses of government, and secondly, if they had they would have acted upon these protections to keep their children from being eaten by lions, burned alive and beheaded at the hands of rogue

government officials and politicians. Corrupt Politicians do not care about their constituency and they don't care about you, they only care about the power they glean from their constituency.

America was once referred to as The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave; but in this critical time in our nation, bravery is being mislabeled as being inconsiderate and mean; and Free is being labeled as rebellious and refractory.

And as Clergy and as the Pastor of this Great Church, hear me well today, we will not bend nor we will not bow any further. We played ball with the COVID restrictions and I have done everything in my power to do all that was asked of our church as a place of worship for us to facilitate services but my willingness to go along with any further rules or regulations are nonexistent.

I have gone as far as I will go and I have drawn a hard line in the sand. I am all for protecting people but what I am not for is draconian laws, abuse of power, and preferential treatment of our government picking and choosing who is essential and who is not essential.

The old adage has rung true in our current plight, "Never let a good crisis go to waste" and too many of our government leaders are using our current conundrum as opportunities to powerplay their political agendas.

Church Family, too many politicians and movements have rose up as a champion of the Church because they are seeking to use our plight as a means of driving an agenda. The struggle of the Church is not a card in the deck of the game of politics.

If they want to shut down then shut it all down, all or nothing; but apparently COVID doesn't spread at Walmart but it does spread at houses of worship and Christmas gatherings...

In the beginning, I shut our church down, I requested masks, we've spent multiplied thousands of dollars per month cleaning and deconning our facilities, our facilities here are cleaner than any Lowes, Home Depot, Target, or Walmart in north Louisiana, but enough is enough. The Cure is not supposed to be worse than the Problem it is seeking to resolve.

“Well those are some hard sayings pastor! Why can't you tell me about how much Jesus loves me and how He has a plan for my life!” I do love you and I do care about you but I am not going to love you Hell because I was afraid to tell you the truth and correct our corporate body to ensure that we all get into Heaven! And I am not going to remain silent when the Church as we know hangs in the balance of politics.

What I am unwilling to do is set back and watch our nation be destroyed by people who hate the Church and Hate this Nation! If our nation falls, who do you think they will target next? The Church. They will target you.

Our nation and the Church are under attack and if we are not willing to stand against tyranny, abuse of power, and draconian law then we are doomed to lose our civil and religious liberties, our constitutional protections and our amendment rights. This is not fear mongering; this is watching history repeat itself.

This not a matter of Republican or Democrat but rather a matter of right and wrong and regrettably we are living in a day where good is called to be evil and evil is called to be good This is a struggle of good versus evil.

Weigh our insanity as a nation on the scales of common sense; we have a “right” to abort our children but there are those who seek to strip us of our right to speak freely, gather freely, assembly freely, and protect ourselves. Too many of our politicians, on both sides of the isle, have failed us and sold us out to big tech, big pharma, big box stores, and foreign powers. Here me well today... Light Always Overcomes Darkness. Truth Always Overcomes Lies.

“So Pastor, what are you asking of us to do as a church family?” I’m asking for you to get rooted in this house and get stable; faithfully attend, tithe, pray and serve.

I’m asking you to get rooted in this house and be reliable; support your leadership, stand with your church body, and be willing to speak up and speak out against corruption and evil. Evil triumphs when Good Men and Women do nothing.

I'm asking you to get rooted in this house and let go of your spirits of offense; get past your pride, be sensitive to the Spirit, and love one another. And lastly, I'm asking you to get rooted in this house and be willing to stand in defense of it; protect this House, refuse to let your rights be stripped from you, and, if it comes down to it, stand against tyranny no matter the cost.

One of our founding fathers of our great nation, Thomas Paine, wrote, "I prefer peace. But if trouble must come, let it come in my time, so that my children can live in peace." And if trouble must come, let it come in our day in so that our children and grandchildren have an America to inherit and not another failed nation noted in the annals of history.

If we are to be representatives of Christ in this present age, then we must be rooted in Christ and in His Church. I am so tired of hearing about historical revivals and their impacts; here is the problem with revival... If we made the effort to stay alive then we would never need a revival to resurrect us from our deadness...

As a nation, if we had made an effort to stay free then we would never need to fight to protect our freedoms as Americans. Everyone is praying for revival, everyone is praying for our nation to turn around but my simple prayer is this... Lord let your teachings, your disciplines and your Spirit be found in my life daily as I lead, love and pastor your church...

“Well pastor, are you saying that we should not pray for revival?” No I am not, I am only asking that you stay on fire for Christ after the revival has come... Revive us again oh Lord but this time, let us stay alive... Revive our Nation against oh Lord but this time, let us stay free...

Open the altars to pray for the church and the nation...