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Grace Community Church of Topsail

August 24, 2014 - Retreat to status quo or move forward in faith-filled risk? - Hebrews 11

Sermon Notes, Order of Worship, and Announcements

Prayer Before Sunday Morning Worship, meets at 9:45 in Media Ministry. Open to all

Prayers for Karen Frazier, LPC

Psalm 23:1-4

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He restores my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff
they comfort me.

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Resurrection Power

Head Then Every Knee (Hand Then)

Psalm 24:1-10

The earth belongs to the LORD, and all it contains,
the world and those who live in it.
For he laid the foundation of the earth
beneath the waters
and established it on the ocean depths.
Who may climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not sworn by my life
to lie to their neighbors.
They will receive blessings from the LORD
and be rewarded by God their Savior.
Such are those who seek him,
who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
Lift your heads, you gates;
lift your ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, victorious in battle.
Lift your heads, you gates;
lift your ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of heaven's armies—
he is the King of glory.

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How Firm A Foundation (Foundation)

Psalm 26:8

Lord, I love the place where you live,
the place where your glory shines.

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Today's Sermon:

Retreat to status quo
or move forward in
faith-filled risk?
Hebrews 11

God works sovereignly through responsible human beings to accomplish His redemptive purposes.

Colossians 1:15-18 (1)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn
of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or
authorities—all things were created through him
and for

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Hebrews 1:1 (1)

1 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact
imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe
by the word of his power. After making purification
for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the
Majesty on high,

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God is in control of
the days and the seasons.

God is in control of
time and eternity.

God rules over all of creation
and over everything that
happens within His creation.

God ordains and directs
the affairs of His people.

God is over all of the decrees
and the decisions of kings
and the
rise and fall of nations.

There is nothing that happens
outside of God's foreknowledge
and plan, and yet God is not the
author of sin in any way.

There is nothing that happens
that does not bring ultimate
glory to God
and good for His people.

Nehemiah 1:1-4 (1)

1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King
Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up
the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not
been sad in his presence before this time. 2 So
"Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick?

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Question 1:
How do you know when you are
called by God to move forward
in God-honoring
faith filled risk?

- Nehemiah has a burden.
- Nehemiah has been praying about his burden.
- Nehemiah has a plan to fulfill the burden.

- Nehemiah has the ability to accomplish the plan.
- Nehemiah has the opportunity to do it.
- Nehemiah could not just walk away from this burden.

- Do you have the burden?
- Have you been praying about this burden?
- Do you have the ability?
- Do you have the opportunity?

When these things begin to come together, you begin to feel an internal burning that is directing me. - That is God's hand.

Can you walk away from the burden, you want to walk away from the burden through that opportunity?

God has opened the door.
Do you dare NOT walk through that door?

Do you dare NOT take that risk even though it may bring discomfort and danger upon you?

Question 2:
What happens when you fail to
move forward in God-honoring
faith filled risk?

When the people of God almost escape from the enticing charm of security

Numbers 13

Numbers 13:1-2 (1)

1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to
spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to
the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers
you shall send a man, every one a leader among
them." 26 Moses sent them from the wilderness
of

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Numbers 13:25-14:10 (1)

25 At the end of forty days they returned from spying
out the land, 26 and they came to Moses and Aaron
and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in
the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought
back word to them and to all the congregation,

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God's people worshipped the idol of security - the belief that there is a cultural way of life apart from the path of God enabling obedience.

Lives are wasted pursuing security, rather than faith-filled obedience.

Question 3:
Where do you place your hope and trust? A political party or politician?

God is sovereign over every political power.

God is sovereign over every political power.

Nehemiah does not let his engagement in the political process take away or sacrifice his calling from God to move forward in faith-filled obedience.

How do you know when your politics have superseded God?

How do you know when your politics have superseded God?

- Candidates start to function as saviors.
- Rallies start to just the worship service.
- Elections start to just be either salvation or damnation.

The church is not becoming more political - politics are getting more theological.

God's sovereignty is our call to action.

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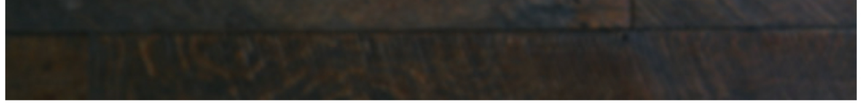

Cornerstone

Does your heart beat for the discipleship of our young people? We have opportunities for you to teach our Grace City classes

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