Sermon Highlights

Obedient Witness: Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Sermon Summary:

This sermon explores the account of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch from Acts 8, emphasizing the importance of immediate obedience to God's leading and the power of Scripture-based evangelism. The message highlights how God prepared the ancient world for the spread of the Gospel through a common language (Greek) and hearts disillusioned with pagan polytheism, drawing people toward the one true God. Philip's willingness to leave a successful revival in Samaria to witness to one person in the desert demonstrates that God values individual souls and orchestrates divine appointments. The Ethiopian eunuch represents those who earnestly seek God despite obstacles—he was excluded from full participation in Jewish worship due to his status as both a foreigner and a eunuch, yet he pursued God with what he could do rather than focusing on what he couldn't. The sermon emphasizes that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ as revealed in Scripture, not through feelings or experiences, and that baptism is the believer's first act of obedience following salvation. The eunuch's immediate desire for baptism and subsequent rejoicing illustrates the proper response to salvation—joy and witness.

Key Points:

- God prepares the world for the spread of the Gospel through circumstances, language, and hearts receptive to truth

- Immediate obedience to God's direction is essential, even when it doesn't make human sense

- We should focus on what we can do for God rather than what we can't do

- The foundation of faith must be the Word of God, not personal feelings or experiences

- Scripture is the key to understanding salvation—Philip preached Jesus from the Old Testament (Isaiah 53)

- Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ, not through baptism or rituals

- Baptism is the believer's first act of obedience and public identification with Christ

- Every believer is called to proclaim the Gospel, not just pastors or church leaders

- Consistent reading of God's Word brings understanding, even when initially unclear

- True salvation results in rejoicing and continued witness

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 8:26-40 (primary passage)

- Isaiah 53 (the passage the eunuch was reading)

- Isaiah 56:3-5 (regarding eunuchs and foreigners in God's house)

- Psalm 56 (referenced regarding justice and righteousness)

Stories:

- The account of Philip leaving the successful Samarian revival to witness to one Ethiopian eunuch on a desert road

- Philip running to join the eunuch's chariot and explaining Isaiah 53, leading to the eunuch's conversion and baptism

- The eunuch's background as a former slave who rose to become treasurer under Queen Candace of Ethiopia

- The eunuch's previous attempts to worship God in Jerusalem, standing outside the temple courts because he couldn't fully participate

- Philip being supernaturally transported to Azotus after baptizing the eunuch

- Personal testimony of Pastor Bruce Gordon baptizing a man from the Bronx in an AT&T pool in Chicago before hundreds of witnesses

- Historical note about the strong church that existed in Ethiopia for centuries, possibly started by this eunuch's witness