

**Of First Importance
Meadowbrook Church
October 25, 2020**

What defines us as a church? What is our mission?

Clearly from scripture, it is the **“Gospel Above All”**

Meadowbrook’s Core Values:

Worship: We pursue a personal and corporate encounter with God. (Matthew 22:37)

Connect: We partner with others in our spiritual journey with Christ. (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10)

Serve: We serve others with the heart of Christ through our gifts and talents. (Romans 12:6-8)

Grow: We strive to know and become like Christ. (II Peter 3:18)

Reach: We transform our community and world by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... I Corinthians 15:1-4

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 3:10-11

...I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel... I Corinthians 9:22-23

The key word in the gospel is “substitution” - **Jesus in my place.**

WHY IS THE GOSPEL OF FIRST IMPORTANCE IN OUR MISSION?

1. Without the gospel, people are lost.

- *What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36*
- *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received... Corinthians 15:1*

2. Without the gospel, there is no power in Christianity.

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you... I Corinthians 15:1-2

Your words have supported those who stumbled; you have strengthened faltering knees. Job 4:4

Let us hold fast to the profession of our faith...without wavering... Hebrews 10:23

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3

For I’m not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes... Romans 1:16

Things that compete with the Gospel Above All ...

1. Putting a greater emphasis on ‘do’ than ‘done’
2. Taking conversion for granted
3. Prioritizing preference over mission