

Top of the Pyramid  
January 6, 2019

I Begin with two pyramids

A) This year will be exciting; it will also be challenging

1) **SLIDE** First pyramid

- a) When we look at this pyramid, we see ourselves as removed from any of these problems
- b) We speak of them quite often.
- c) Yet, honestly, what impact can we have on Washington? On stopping Socialism?

2) **SLIDE** Second pyramid

- a) That order is wrong
- b) We should be at the top
- c) Not because we are the most important
- d) Because if we are not grounded in the Lord, then we can accomplish nothing of everlasting value
- e) How can we speak into other people's lives if God is not speaking into ours?
- f) **SLIDE Philippians 4:13 (NIV)** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
  - i) How many of us have quoted this verse?
  - ii) Do we believe it?

3) **SLIDE 1 Corinthians 3:10-13 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup> By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

- a) No matter what we do, whether it is waiting tables or speaking to presidents, our work will not stand if it is not built on the foundation of Jesus Christ
- b) Conversely, whatever we do, if it is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, will survive the Lord's fire
- 4) **SLIDE** Therefore, our first priority is our personal relationships with Jesus
  - a) **Romans 14:10, 12 (NIV)** "For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."
  - b) **1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
- B) Our personal relationships will determine how we answer the two questions
  - 1) What do you believe?
  - 2) Why do you believe it?
- C) Beth Moore: spending time with God and spending time with the Bible are not the same
  - 1) **SLIDE** Spending time with God and spending time with the Bible are not the same thing. The Bible is the Word of God, crucial to knowing Him, but it's not God. We can study our Bibles till the 2nd coming & leave God completely out of it. We can grow in facts & never grow a whit in faith.
  - 2) **SLIDE** Do not be deceived. People who study the Scriptures constantly and are continually mean-spirited, rude, slanderous and, aside their religious rhetoric, bereft of outward evidences of the Holy Spirit are having Bible study without God. He affects us. You can take that to the bank.
  - 3) **SLIDE John 4: 23-24 (NIV)** <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the

Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

- a) David Unsell's application: Spirit = our personal relationship with Jesus; Truth = His word/the Bible
- b) We can become flaky when we remove the Bible
- c) We can become legalistic when we remove the Spirit
- d) So, we need to strengthen our personal relationship with Jesus
- e) We need to know His word because the world is trying to obscure it

#### 4) Examples

- a) God will not give us more than we can handle
  - i) Quoted this many times - to myself and others
  - ii) I reminded God of this
  - iii) However, it is not true
  - iv) **SLIDE 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup> No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
  - v) **1 Peter 3:17 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup> It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.
  - vi) **SLIDE** Danger
    - If God never puts more on us than we can handle, then we do not need His help
    - If we think that and if we can handle the problem, we think we are stronger than we are
- b) **SLIDE** Thou shalt not use the Lord's name in vain
  - i) This meant as a curse word
  - ii) **Exodus 20:7 (AMP)** <sup>7</sup> You shall not use *or* repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain [that is, lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely]; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

D) **SLIDE** Pew Research Study:

- 1) religious makeup of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress
  - a) 88.2 % of Congress identify as Christians
  - b) 55% Protestants
  - c) 21 % Baptist or Methodist
  - d) Compare the 88 % who identify as Christians with the rhetoric and actions coming out of congress
- 2) It seems we have a disconnect between saying we are a Christian and living as a Christian
- 3) The world becomes a mess when we do not worship Jesus is Spirit and Truth
- 4) But, before I can point out the speck in their eyes, I need to remove the log in mine

## II **SLIDE** Back to the Beginning

### A) It starts with me

- 1) I cannot positively impact your lives if my life is not right with Jesus
- 2) I cannot make a positive impact on my family if I am not attached to the vine
- 3) I cannot bless this city if I am not sitting at the feet of Jesus
- 4) And on and on
- 5) Everything Jesus asks us to do begins with our relationship with Him
  - a) We have to know Him
  - b) We have to know His word
  - c) Before I look at the problems that surround us, Jesus always begins by holding up a mirror so I can see myself.

### B) **SLIDE** Two conversations

- 1) Rachel: we need to be more aware of what God is doing and follow Him (Spirit)

- 2) Laura: we need to separate man's doctrine from God's word and stand up for God's word (Bible: Truth)
  - 3) We cannot fix the problem with the church
  - 4) Jesus will do that
  - 5) We are to focus on Cornerstone and on each other
  - 6) By worshipping Him in Spirit and Truth
- C) **SLIDE** Theme for this year: the baby has grown up!!

D) Building the wall

- 1) Each of us has a section
  - a) Cornerstone's wall
  - b) Coalgate's wall
  - c) Nation's wall
  - d) World's wall
- 2) If we concentrate on our section of the wall, Jesus will take care of the rest