

Heading to the Promise Land

Scripture:

Psalms 119:160 *“The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.”*

Introduction:

Both large and small companies today place a huge importance on their employees being safe and not getting hurt while on the job. Work related injuries cost companies enormous amounts of money that eventually are passed on to the consumer in pricing.

It’s interesting to note that among all the preventive measures for work place injuries, there is one that seems to be used by many companies. Most companies ask their employees not to back up while in company vehicles unless it is absolutely necessary. They ask their employees to consider this especially when they are parking the vehicle. They tell their employees to take extra time if needed to find a spot that they can simply take off in a forward direction because most vehicle accidents happen while backing a vehicle.

We, church, must be careful when we look to our past that we don’t end up with ourselves in reverse. Yesterday and this morning stands as a great reunion of the saints this side of heaven, but in no way should it serve as a longing for the past. For Jesus said “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62

Our direction is forward and we must use these experiences and relationships of the past for God in the present.

Transitional Statement:

The Lord Himself has made our memories and He expects us to use them for growth according to the purposes of His will in the expansion of His kingdom.

With these things in mind this morning let us consider how we should move forward in this place and the places you might live.

Lesson:

I. First, moving forward must include a Continued Emphasis on Spiritual Growth

A. We must, at all cost, avoid the thinking that we some how have arrived !

1. That we have done all that we can do.

B. If our spiritual walk on this earth was thought of in the context of climbing the mountain of God.....

1. God would want us to avoid the plateaus

2. Those areas where growth has all but stopped.

C. Spiritual growth has 5 very basic factors:

1. Full Surrender to God

- a. Matthew 16:24 *“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me*
- b. Coming to Him with the palm of our hands down in a move of humility as opposed to our palms up looking for hand outs.
- c. Only deep spiritual faith can help us in full surrender.
-To many times we let our selves get in God’s way !
- d. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”*

2. Allow His shaping in our lives

- a. From Isaiah and Jeremiah to Romans God is likened to a potter molding his people as clay

-But for Him to mold us we have to be moldable.
-Open to God’s shaping in our lives.
- b. Romans 12:1-2 *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

3. We must take sin seriously

- a. Not willing to allow even the smallest sin to be tucked away.

-Romans chapter six reminds us to live in the newness of life before God not taking advantage of the grace of God by continuing in sin.
- b. We must not forget that sin in its simple form is rebellion against God.

-And deeper yet for the Christian...is missing God’s intention in our lives.

4. We must stoke the fires of Devotion

- a. Passion for God must rise in our hearts.
- b. Our spiritual mouths must be parched for the living water of John 4
- c. Our every thought focused on heaven

- a. Colossians 3:1-2 *“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”*

5. And we must be a people of prayer

- a. A people looking for God’s direction

-With an understanding that left to ourselves we would fall flat on our face .

-Jeremiah 10:23 *“I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.”*

- b. God reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

- c. And Quoted by Jesus is the words of Isaiah 56:7

“...For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”

II. Moving forward must include A Commitment to the Truth

- A. There seems to be a big wind of change blowing through our brotherhood.

- a. A change to make worship about us instead of God.
- b. A change to minimize God’s word in an effort to grow the church.

- B. Church worship is about God.....not us !

- C. We were never promised to be the most popular folks on the block.

- a. For Jesus said *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.”* Matthew 7:13

- D. The apostle Paul directs Christians to follow the apostolic pattern...Phil 3:17

- a. This should come as no surprise because God has always established a pattern for His people to walk in.

- b. But in our brotherhood, some of the most highly educated particularly at the university levels are proclaiming that there is no pattern, but approaching God is merely a matter of the heart.

-This stands in direct violation of God's word !

- E. John 4:24 *"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*
- F. John 8:31-32 *"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, " If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

III. Moving forward must include an Evangelistic Outreach

A. We have built this nice facility

- 1. And now it is our choice as to how we will use it.
 - a. Will we use it only for our own pleasures
 - b. Or to use it as a life line to reach the lost.

B. Church God calls us to be people builders.

- 1. Along with the apostles in 2 Cor 5:17 we have been given the ministry of reconciliation to tell people about salvation through Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 2. To be Fishers of men as Jesus said. Matthew 4:19

C. The great question that remains to be answered is....will we let our lights shine in a world full of darkness? Matthew 5:16

- 1. Will we be a city set on a hill for God's own pleasure?

D. Church we should eat, sleep and drink the directive of Jesus...

Matthew 28:19-21 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Conclusion:

Ephesians 3:20-21

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."