

Has the Church Lost Its Purpose?

“Church by Faith”

Hebrews 11:1-3

*God Commands Me in His Word – Love Him with All my Heart, My Soul, My Mind
- and to Love One Another as Myself*

Introduction: God had place this sermon series on my heart with a great concern for where the church culture of our time has come to.

- A. Christ centered, Bible focused Churches are struggling with attendance and really with existence while there is a great attraction to the emergent church where there is little focus on the depths of God’s Word and the equipping of the believer and much focus on figuring out how to how to take a few scriptures and adapting them to our current culture so that we can live a balanced life with the world.
- This will be the last sermon in the series and will serve also as a notice that we as a local body of Christ will continue to be a gathering of believers that continue to equip believers to live for Christ, worship God and witness of His saving Grace!
 - We will stay Christ centered and Bible focused!
 - We will reach out to the lost but we will not compromise the holiness of God to do so!
 - We will equip the believer to live for God and be pleasing to Him!
- How will we do it, will we carry out the purpose which God has called His church.
- It has to be done by faith!

B. I know we have already spoken about building faith as a purpose of the church but this morning I want to revisit that not only as a purpose but as a way or an avenue to carry on the purpose for which God has called us.

1. We will not cast a vision we do not have one we have a mission and honestly I am not sure how we are going to get there and what it is going to look like.

- Now at this point someone if they have got there already are googling what is that verse “that without a vision the people perish” I will save you the data minutes, its proverbs 29:18.

- Just make sure you read the whole thing in context:

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,

But happy is he who keeps the law. Proverbs 10:18

➤ This verse says nothing about a Pastor having a vision of the church growing from 50 to 150 in 6 months or 50 people being saved or building a new sanctuary. Those may be great goals but they are not visions and the church doesn't exist and move based on the vision of the pastor the church moves forward by faith in the Word of God!

Transition: Now let's look at the text READ Hebrews 11:1-3

➤ This message will not only serve as the conclusion of this series concerning the purpose of the church but will begin a new series Full of Faith.

= Faith erases the questions!

I. Faith in God's Word Erases the Questions verse 1

A. Faith is the assurance, the KJV translation says Faith is the substance I like that, it is the core it is foundational.

1. When something is the assurance or the substance then it is going to be what everything is built on.

➤ We often quote that without faith it is impossible to please God there is not a more foundational statement of Christianity in all of God's Word.

2. Faith is the very substance of who we are as believers, see there it is, believers, if we don't believe then there is nothing it is the substance of which we are made of.

B. Now as individuals who make up the bride of Christ the Church we have questions.

1. What are we supposed to be doing, what is our purpose?

- First the answer is the same because the church is individual believers gathered together!

2. But what are we supposed to be doing well we are supposed to be believing, we are supposed to trust God's Word for direction not trying to pray down some new revelation vision from Heaven.

■ I believe maybe some may have a misconception of faith: Faith is not a super hero strength enabling the believers to perform miracles, faith it is a gift from God that acknowledges and believes God's Power and Sovereignty to perform His will in our lives according to His Holy Word.

C. Faith answers all the questions!

1. Where did God come from?

➤ God's Word says that He is the Alpha and the Omega the beginning and the end He is the eternal God head He has always been.

- How do we know that is true?

- Because we believe or we have faith that the Word of God is the Word of God and that it is infallible. Faith is the substance of who we are and it answers all the questions!

2. Why, if God is in control do seemingly bad things or difficult situation happen to good people?

- The answer is Faith, Faith in the Word of God says: *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* Romans 8:28

➤ The list of questions is endless but for the child of God and for the church the answer is the same for that which we cannot see the answer is faith, faith in the Word of God!

Transition: That is why it is so troubling to see the church drift away from sound doctrine of God's Word, Preaching and teaching of God's Word because it is what we are to believe for salvation and to live our lives for God it answers all the questions.

A. The question "Has the church lost its purpose", the answer is yes it has if it is searching or giving answers to life outside the boundaries of faith in God's Word and encouraging people to believe in themselves.

- Believing in ourselves in a sure way to destruction and the dismantling of the church.

➤ Faith in God's Word answers the questions!

➤ And Faith in God's Word Proves His will for the Church and must serve as the focal point of the purpose of why we gather as believers also known as the church.

II. Faith in God's Word is Proof of His Will for His Church verse 1

A. God's Word says who He is. You remember when God called Moses to go bring His people up out of Egypt when they were in bondage Moses asked who do I say sent me God response was you tell I sent you the I AM sent

you the one that exist sent you and Moses believed Him and by faith He believed God's words and went to Work for God.

1. The faith that He gives to us to believe His Word is the motivation really inspiration to work for Him, to please Him, to walk with Him.

➤ It is all the proof we need. This word conviction here means evidence of something and in this case it is evidence of something you cannot see the only evidence that we have that God exist is faith it is the proof and it is not something that we can come up with on our own!

- It can't be conjured up with an emotional experience faith can only come by God's Word it is the conviction of God not only for salvation but for instruction in living for Him!

■ Faith is a gift of God!

2. God gives us the faith to believe Him to trust His Word you see that is why the purpose of the Church has to be in God's Word and equipping believers to strengthening their faith.

- *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

Romans 10:17

= If a gathering of people are gather to believe in themselves, to trust their own thoughts and desires then they are not the church at all.

- **Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.** Proverbs 3:5-6

B. True faith does not have to see physical evidence.

1. We do not have to line people up and have a healing service we can look to God's word to the Book of James and call for the elders of the church anoint with oil and what does it say?

- *Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.* James 5:14-20

- !physically healed sickness?

➤ What it means is that they will be restored that may be physical healing that maybe to be in the presence of God but we pray in faith a Sovereign God is in control!

- Faith is not a magic wand to wave at things and make them all better faith is simply believing God is God and if God is for us who or what can come against us!

Transition: Faith is the proof of the purpose of the church is to be God's Word to equip believer's to live for Christ as a witness of Christ and to go out and share the truths of His Gospel to all that will hear!

- We don't need to see a vision for the church to build a new building
- We don't need to see a vision of attendance of 1000 people

➤ We don't need to see anything the conviction is already there it is in faith in the Word of God!

➤ This one will get me in trouble there are some church that have you pick a word for the year to kind of live by or at least acknowledge in your maybe its love or friendship or kindness or something else. But I don't understand why would you limit yourself to a word how about living by The Word!

- *16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so*

that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

= You say pastor you just picking and being petty well if it helps you to pick one word for the year then go for it you haven't done anything wrong. You're missing out on so much more!

- Which is the problem in the emergent and seeker friendly churches the believers are just missing out on so much more!

= Finally our last point of the message and the last point of the series!

- Here is a question do will really want to know what God's purpose for us the church is?
- Because if we really know His purpose we are so accountable and to whom much is given much is required!

III. Faith in God's Word is the Understanding of God verse 3

- A. Now at the beginning of the Book of Hebrews it says that God spoke to the men of Old in many ways.
 - We know that burning bush and such things!
- But Now God only begotten Son the Lord Jesus Christ dies on the cross rose again ascended to Heaven the Holy Spirit the comforter came to us, in us and God speaks to us through His Word by Holy Spirit discernment!
 1. We cannot understand one thing about God with the Word of God and the faith to believe it through the Holy Spirit!
- B. It is by faith that we can know God and there is no other way accept by faith!
 1. The Scriptures say that it is by faith that we understand the worlds were prepared by the word of God!

- It is through the Word that we even know who God is and His Holiness and it is by faith that we believe His Word.
- How is it possible that the popular church culture today offer so little Bible teaching replacing it with just feel better about yourself or it's, just glad you came hope you get saved today.
 - C. The Purpose of the Church has been lost when the Word of God is absent or is not the primary focus of the body.
 - 1. The church is not about teach us about how we can better ourselves it is to teach us God Word that we can better live for Him!

Closing: When a Church becomes about bettering ourselves and being more “blessed”

- A Church Can have thousands in attendance have the greatest sound and lights
- A church can go on a hundred missions trips around the world
- Feed thousands of hungry people
- Take in hundreds of homeless
- But if the Church does not equip the Believer the believer with the Word of God to grown in faith in it has done nothing more that many secular organizations and has lost its purpose!
 - A. So here we stand you are the church.
 - 1. Have you lost your purpose why do you gather on Sunday morning or don't you gather on Sunday morning?
 - God help us to always be a church that is Christ center and Bible focused and God I pray that you will increase our faith and make us an obedient people to bring glory to your name!