



Revival Meeting 2021

Citizens

Ephesians 2:19-21

Things To Keep In Mind:

- DO follow the Revival Meeting schedule
- DO bring a bible, pen, and notebook/handbook to messages, be attentive during messages
- DO attend small group sessions
- BE open to time with God, and refrain from using electronics other than for Zoom
- BE intentional in your conversations, get to know others on a deeper level
- BE inter-generational, get to know people outside of your age!

About The Speaker

- Born and raised in Canada and the church. Happily married to his wife Christina with two boys, Isaiah and Micah.
- This worldly activities enjoyed include playing and coaching and watching baseball, getting in 10,000 steps a day and making or eating family dinners.
- Given that the Bible is a Christian community's authoritative guide for faith and living, three other books every Christian should read include: Jesus Creed (Scot McKnight), Surprised by Hope (NT Wright), Cost of Discipleship (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).
- Currently serving as senior pastor at Fuller Life Church in Markham.



July 17 Devotion: A Satisfied Life with God

Psalms 129-131

1 Corinthians 11:1-16

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.” —Philippians 4:12-13

C. S. Lewis once said, “If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.” As Christians, we will find ourselves in difficult situations facing trials and persecutions. Yet, the comforting thing as a Christian is that the Christian life is embodied in the life of Christ at work through us. Just as Christ walked, we are to walk in the power of who He is, and that influences every part of our life.

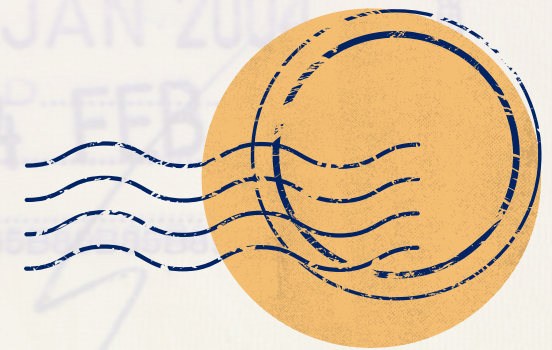
The Apostle Paul serves as a great example on what it means to live a life of loving God, loving others and sharing with them the message and reality of Christ. Locked up in a dungeon in Rome and about to be beheaded by Nero, Paul writes his final letters to Timothy. Paul says, “For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near” (2 Timothy 4:6). In the Old Testament, the drink offering was one of the offerings where none of it was reserved for the priest; a drink offering is poured out on the altar in its entirety. What Paul is saying is, “I have given everything and I am ready to enter eternal rest.”

Looking back on Paul’s life, he was beaten, stoned, whipped and persecuted for the sake of Christ. Paul did not experience a safe Christianity; he experienced a dangerous Christianity. And this man who has been faithful to what God has called him to do—who has given his whole life to it—is sitting in a prison cell and about to die alone. In fact, he knew this day would come when he said farewell to the Ephesian elders: “I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace” (Acts 20:23-24).

Paul is ready to die and leaves Timothy with these final words: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Paul’s final words give us some sobering clarity. Even though the Christian life is not a comfortable life, it is a rewarding life because it is a satisfied life with God.

Prayer: Dear God, keep me steadfast upon You. Strengthen me as I run this race, completing the task of sharing Your gospel message to all the world. Thank You, God.

Via https://livingtruth.ca/blogs/devotionals/a-satisfied-life-with-god?_pos=49&_sid=2254a165b&_ss=r



July 18 Devotion: Everything in Common

Exodus 31-33
Matthew 22:1-22

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” —Matthew 28:19-20

When we devote ourselves to the Word of God and have regular fellowship with fellow believers, the by-product of our devotion to Christ is an embrace of the community. As we experience Christ in our lives, the compassion of Christ fills our heart and develops a love for the community around us. We see this in the early church, “All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together...They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:44-47).

We find that relationships formed in the early church extend beyond the formal Sunday service or times of worship, to Monday through Saturday, as they gather regularly in places around the city sharing life together. The Jerusalem church was made up of citizens from every nation under heaven. There were a variety of languages, ethnicities and cultures, there were the rich, the poor, Jews and Gentiles. But the extraordinary thing is, “they had everything in common.”

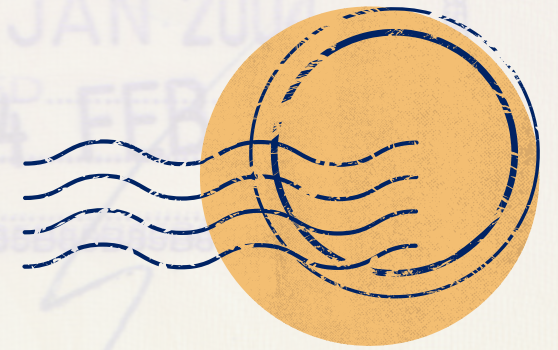
What do we make of this? When Christ is the object of our devotion, the cultural, ethnic and socio-economic divides, the walls that we have created in our world, begin to crumble. Generosity and care were the hallmark of the early church. They divested themselves of possession and saw their own possessions as not their own, but Christ’s possessions that were entrusted into their care to start to share them with others in need.

In a world that is often separated by cultures, ethnicities and socio-economic boundaries, the church is a place where all people, from every nation, tribe, people and language, can come together in a blessed unity. Paul tells us, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). If we truly experience Christ, we will embrace community and celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures that exist within the body of Christ.

As a result, we will naturally want to engage with the world around us. The Jerusalem church lived in faith, intentionally reaching others outside of the church with the gospel message of Jesus Christ. As a result, the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Oswald Smith once said, “Any church that neglects the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist.” Where are we at in our journey of embracing community and sharing the gospel?

Prayer: Almighty God, thank You for creating the Church as a place with no cultural, ethnic or socio-economic walls. Thank You for welcoming me into Your body. Help me to embrace others different from me.

Via https://livingtruth.ca/blogs/devotionals/everything-in-common?_pos=4&_sid=9c04efdd1&_ss=r



Discussion Questions:

FRIDAY NIGHT

- In light of the sermon, what is Jesus all about? Did this complement or differ with your answer earlier? Explain possible outcomes of this connection.
- How does this sermon contribute to our overall theme of Citizens?
- What is your relationship to non-Christians in your life? Are all your friends Christians?
- As a church, what would be a balanced outlook and expectation for us with those who don't know Christ yet? What are some practical steps to making this more and more a reality?

SATURDAY NIGHT

- In light of the sermon, do you possess dual citizenship?
- Why does it matter to Paul in Ephesians for the church to remember where we came from?
- Paul thinks of Christ as the centre of all things (see Ephesians 1:9-10, 20-23) which leads to thinking of the church as a whole. How might this differ from our (post)modern world? Name three outcomes of this that relate to our topic of citizenship.

SUNDAY MORNING

- The five books of the New Testament highlighted today consistently show us Paul in what sort of condition? Do you see the Apostle Paul's condition as normative for Christian life and practice or unusual and not behaviour to be imitated?
- Describe what it means to be in Christ. Why is this core to our theme of citizenship?
- Discuss the relationship between citizenship and cross-bearing. Why is it necessary to keep these two realities together?

Schedule

FRIDAY

Session #1: 7:30pm-9:30pm

- Icebreakers
- Worship
- Message
- Response Song
- Prayer Time
- Small Groups

SATURDAY

Games Time: 5:00pm-6:30pm

- PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

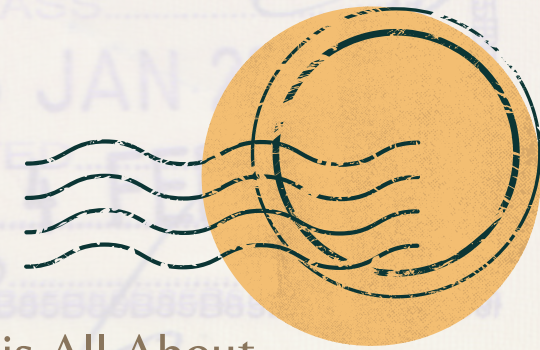
Session #2: 7:30pm-9:30pm

- Worship
- Message
- Response Song
- Q&A
- Small Groups

SUNDAY

Session #3: Worship service at 9:30am

Sermons



FRIDAY

Title: What Jesus is All About

Passage: Mark 1:1-15

SATURDAY

Title: Citizens of Heaven

Passage: Ephesians 2:11-22

SUNDAY

Title: "In Christ": Citizenship & Cross-Bearing

Passage: Reflections on Paul in Acts, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon

Notes
