

10/6/19: Sermon Notes on Churched: We are Word-Driven (Eph. 1:18-23; 2 Tim. 4:1-4)

The church is the greatest entity ever created (called-out community), revolving around the greatest Person who ever lived (Christ), promised the greatest protection ever given (*“the gate of Hades will not overcome it”*) with the greatest partnership ever afforded (family, body, flock, etc.) on the greatest mission (making disciples) ever announced with the greatest message ever communicated (life-saving gospel).

- **God’s Word** comes in a living version (Jesus Christ) and a written version (Bible) that must drive the church’s life and meaning.

1. We are driven by the written inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 4:1-4)

- Pastors are called to **“preach the Word”** no matter what kind of season it is (in or out) and do with positively (*“exhort with great patience and instruction”*) and negatively (*“reprove, rebuke”*)
- John MacArthur shared **“Five Reasons Why We Must Preach the Word”**
 1. Because of the danger of the seasons (2 Tim. 3:1-9): The *“last days”* (living in since Christ ascended) are difficult and going from *“bad to worse”* (v. 13) as church history reveals
 2. Because of the devotion of the saints (2 Tim. 3:10-14): Paul calls Timothy to *“continue in the things you have learned...”* (v. 14), so the church doesn’t need to reinvent ministry, but carry out what God has already instructed.
 3. Because of the dynamic of the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15-17): The heart and soul of why we must preach the Word is because of its profound power to save (v. 15) and sanctify (grow us – v. 16-17)
 4. Because of the demand of the Sovereign God (2 Tim. 4:1): The ministry is a sober serious calling that demands we honor the Lord first and foremost as leaders must give an account (James 3:1; Heb. 13:17).
 5. Because of the deceptiveness of the sensual (2 Tim. 4:3-4): The flesh wants to feel good, be entertained, gratified and stroked, but this will lead to deception and a lack of discernment.

2. We are driven by the living incarnate Word of God (Eph. 1:18-23 and other references)

- Eph 1:18-23 is a prayer Paul prays for our enlightenment about what God has done for us and in us. He closes his prayer by wanting us to spiritually see Christ's supreme position (*God's right hand; far above all; all things in subjection under his feet; head over all things to the church*)

- **5 ways the church is driven by Jesus Christ**
 1. **Jesus Christ is our supreme God, therefore we are fully accountable to Him.** Whether you look at His claims, His sinlessness, His power to forgive sin, His names and attributes, His reception of worship or even the testimony of His enemies-John 10:30-33, He is God. He is our Lord, Judge and "*head over all to the church*" (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23; Col. 1:18), so we must all give an account of ourselves to Him (Rom. 12:10; 2 Cor. 5:10)
 2. **Jesus Christ is our sin-bearing Savior, therefore we must be forgiven by Him.** All over the Scripture, Jesus is our only hope of salvation: the Savior of the body" (Eph. 5:23), the "Author of salvation" (Heb. 2:10; 12:2), the "bread of life out of heaven" (Jn. 6:35, 48), the "Deliverer" (Rm. 11:26); the "door of the sheep" (Jn. 10:7), our "Eternal life" (1 Jn. 1:2; 5:20), the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (Jn. 1:29, 36), the "light of the world" (Jn. 8:12), the "one mediator between God and men" (1 Tim. 2:5); our "redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30), "the resurrection and the life" (Jn 11:25) and "the way" to God (John 14:6). We "repent and believe in the gospel" as Jesus preached (Mark 1:15)
 3. **Jesus Christ is our sympathetic High Priest, therefore we can win the battle against sin.** He is our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5), identifies with our temptations and suffering as one who "*sympathizes with our weaknesses*" (Heb 4:15) and "*is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted*" (Heb. 2:17-18). He intercedes for us in prayer (Rom. 8:34) and "*always lives to make intercession for us*" (Heb. 7:25) He is the great truth-source of the church (Col. 2:3-4; 1 Cor. 1:30). He is our defense attorney (advocate) when we "*sin*" whether the enemy accuses (Rev. 12:11) or slanders us (1 Jn. 2:1: "*we have an Advocate with the Father, JC the righteous*")
 4. **Jesus Christ is our sufficient life, therefore we can fully trust Him.** Christ gives the church everything she needs. We're "*complete in Him*" (Col. 2:10), "*blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies*" (Eph. 1:3) and "*granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness*" (2 Pet 1:3). He's the source of real life (Jn 1:3: "*in Him was life*", called "*our life*" (Col. 3:4) is "*the great Shepherd of the sheep*" (Heb. 13:20). In Christ, we discover "*we are not adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God*" (2 cor. 3:5) and that "*all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ*"

and Christ belongs to God” (1 Cor. 3:23) and “to us” He is “wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 C. 1:30).

5. **Jesus Christ is our soon coming King, therefore we must be ready to meet Him** (Rev. 22:12). He is coming to rapture His church (1 Th. 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:51-58), reconstruct our bodies (I Cor. 15:52-53), reward His people (Rev. 22:12; Rom 14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:10, I Cor. 3:10-15, I Cor. 3:13), release His wrath upon sin and unbelievers for 7 years (Revelation 6-19), to remove the curse (Romans 8:19-23, 2 Peter 3:10-13), to rule the world (Rev 11:15, 19:11-21, 20:1-6) as the *“KINGS OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”* (Rev. 19:16) and reconcile all things to Himself (Col. 1:20, I Cor. 15:20-28)