Bible Study: Standing Firm in a Changing World

Based on "The State of the Church"

Main idea: Because God is our Creator, His Word is trustworthy, and Jesus is Lord, we can remain faithful, love others, and pursue His mission in a changing world.

Icebreaker: Who is someone whose faithfulness to Jesus you admire? What about the way they live has influenced you?

Discussion Questions

1. **What difference does believing God is our Creator make in everyday life?** Read Genesis 1:1 and Romans 1:20. How should that belief shape our understanding of our worth, purpose, and responsibility to God? Where do you find it hardest to live as someone who belongs to Him?
2. **Are we allowing Scripture to shape us?** Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17 and Hebrews 4:12. Can you share a time when God's Word challenged an assumption, attitude, or decision? What helps us receive its correction rather than look only for confirmation of what we already believe?
3. **How can we hold firmly to truth while loving people well?** The sermon calls us to treat people wrestling with faith with grace and patience. What might that look like in a conversation with someone who questions or rejects a biblical teaching? How can we make room for honest questions while remaining faithful to Scripture?
4. **What keeps us following Jesus when obedience becomes costly?** Read John 6:60–69. What does Peter's response reveal about his confidence in Jesus? What pressures tempt us to compromise or withdraw, and how can our church community help us persevere?
5. **What does faithfulness look like in a changing world?** Read 2 Timothy 4:3–5. Paul calls Timothy to remain sober-minded, endure suffering, and continue sharing the Gospel. Which part of that call most challenges you? How might putting our hope in Christ change the way we respond to cultural changes and people who disagree with us?
6. **Which of the points in this list of a lukewarm Christian challenges you most and why?**
    1. Don't really want to be saved from their sins.
    2. Are moved by stories about people who do radical things for Christ, yet they do not do radical things themselves.
    3. Rarely share their faith with others, if ever.
    4. Think about life on earth much more often than eternity in heaven.
    5. Love their luxuries and rarely give in a truly sacrificial way.
    6. Do not live by faith; their lives are structured so they never have to.
    7. Give God their leftovers – not their first and best.

Personal Application: One Step of Faithfulness

The sermon closes by asking how we will offer God our **time, talent, treasure, and trade (our calling)**. Prayerfully consider:

- **Time:** Where could I make room to deepen my relationship with Christ or invest in someone else?
- **Talent:** What ability could I use to serve the church or meet a neighbor's need?
- **Treasure:** What would generous, intentional giving look like for me?
- **Calling:** Who in my workplace, family, or community could I intentionally love, encourage, or share the Gospel with?

Choose one specific step to take this week:
"This week, because I belong to Jesus, I will _____."

Share your step with someone in the group and ask them to follow up with you.

Close in prayer: Ask God to deepen your confidence in His Word, reveal where comfort or fear is shaping your choices, and give you courage to follow Jesus with both conviction and love.