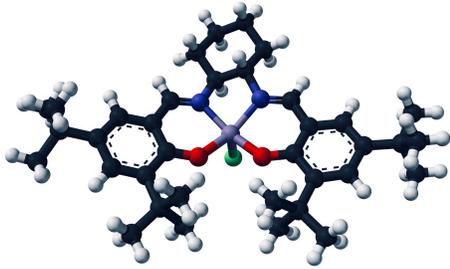


Catalyst Sermon Series 2019



Catalyst is a plan designed to spark conversations and build community around the Vision and Mission of Christ Covenant Church for a the re-planting of a church at 3100 Covenant Road in 2019.

Our Mission is what we do: *Worship, Life, and Ministry Together*. Our Vision is what we long to see: *A movement of the gospel that will bring personal conversion and renewal, community formation, and generous lives serving others for cultural renewal in Columbia and beyond*. Each week we will be unpacking a portion of the vision enabling us to see why we do what we do.

God Seeking Worshipers

You can listen to our first three sermons in Catalyst Sermon Series, *Gospel Centrality* from Galatians 2:11-21, *Stewarding a Gospel Movement* from 1 Peter 2:4-12, and *God Seeks Worshipers* from John 4 at www.ccotc.org/sermons.

We learned that *Gospel Centrality* is what God does that effects everything we do. Gospel centrality has an order, a function, and a power. The 2nd Sunday in the series we learned that *Stewarding a Gospel Movement* is necessary for *Gospel Centrality* to be effective and not just “believed”. Stewarding a Gospel Movement requires God’s presence, his gifts, and his grace. This past week we looked at *God Seeking Worshipers* in the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4.

God Seeks a Diversity of Worshipers Everywhere. In John 4:23 Jesus tells a woman of Samaria that God the Father is seeking worshipers. The woman that Jesus meets at the well outside the city of Sychar does not understand what Jesus is doing in her surroundings asking her for a drink of water. She does not understand that God through his Son Jesus Christ is seeking her as a worshiper. She’s not worthy of the knowledge and enjoyment of God. She’s rejected him in the whole of her life, but he’s not rejecting her. He’s seeking her no matter what she’s done or not done, who she is or is not, where she lives or where she doesn’t live. God is seeking a diversity of worshipers everywhere, not because he has need of them, but because our need of him. We should marvel at his goodness that he has sought us. We should expect him to fill his church with a diversity worshipers from everywhere. We should not expect him to build a social club that we’re comfortable with, but a church of a diversity of worshipers from everywhere. We must get rid of everything that hinders our embracing this reality.

God Seeks to Change Worshipers Everywhere God is seeking true worshipers among false worshipers. The woman of Samaria is a false worshiper, and so are we. She worships falsely as a religious person and as a relational person. As a religious person she worships what she does not know. She worships a religion that ignores the salvation of God by grace for a the religion of self effort. She tries to make herself acceptable to God by what she does and what she knows. In relationships, she seeks her souls satisfaction in being needed, loved, or accepted by men. Jesus is there to change her from a worshiper of the creature to a worshiper of her Creator and Savior. He reveals himself to her and makes a promise to satisfy her deepest longings and souls thirsting with the sweetness of himself as the living water. He’s there to change her relationship with God in the depth of her soul by satisfying her in himself, and this will change her in her relationship with others. But how does this happen in our lives?

God Has the Power to Change Worshipers Everywhere In order for Jesus to change a diversity of worshipers everywhere he had to thirst. The living water Jesus promises to her and us can only be experienced if Jesus takes our sin of false worship to his own life and suffers the wrath of God in our place. That is what he did on the cross. He cried, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And then he cried, “I thirst”. For the first and only

time in the eternal relationship between the Father and the Son, God the Father turned his face away from the Son as he poured out all his wrath upon him for all the false soul satisfying worship of those God loved as sinners. It is knowing and experiencing this depth of the love of God in Jesus Christ at the cross that is the power of God to change us from false worshipers into true worshipers by the Spirit. We must rely upon the Spirit of God to reveal to our hearts the truth of God as it is in Jesus Christ to satisfy our deepest thirsting with all that he is for us out of all that he's done for us. This is what brings personal conversion and renewal to shape our whole lives toward God as worshipers and toward man as conduits of his love. God seeks a diversity of worshipers everywhere and powerfully changes them so that we worship together, share life together, and do ministry together. We live our lives out of what we worship.

Coming Soon - Catalyst Conversations...be on the look out for sign ups in the Narthex at Barnwell St.

Hope for the City Saturdays

On the first Saturday of February (2/2/19) 9:00 - 12:00 we will begin a new initiative to love the city in doing ministry together. We believe that God calls each of his children to love mercy, do justice and to walk humbly with him (Micah 6:8). We also believe that God calls us to seek the welfare of the city where he has placed us (Jeremiah 29:7), by doing good to all, especially those of his church (Galatians 6:10). This doing good in mercy and justice in the city is an expression of our love to God and those around us. Therefore, each month we will be participating in a ministry together project as an expression of God's pleasure for us in this city.



On Saturday February 2, 2019 from 9:00 - 12:00 we will be doing ministry together at Jane Baskin's home 316 Summerlea Drive in Columbia. Jane was a long time member of Covenant Presbyterian Church and is now a member of Christ Covenant Church. Jane is full of the love and joy of her Savior, but is hindered by physical disabilities. Her home is in need of our care. Jane is not able to live in her home at this time but desires that it would once again be livable. We will be gathering there to do yard work and some home repairs. There will be more information provided in the church lobby regarding needed supplies for a morning of ministry together.

3rd Sunday Sacrament of Communion

Beginning in February we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Communion during evening worship on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We will continue to celebrate the Sacrament of Communion during morning worship on the 1st Sunday of the month. In a desire to increase the frequency of Communion in our corporate worship services at Christ Covenant, the Session decided to add it to one of our evening worship services each month. Therefore, we will observe the Sacrament on February 3rd in the morning service, and on February 17th in the evening service.

The Reformed and Presbyterian church has participated in the sacrament with various expressions of frequency throughout her history. The Session of our church desires to increase our use of this means of God's grace in our worship together. We believe that as we experience God's grace through the preaching of his Word, we should experience his grace through this Sacrament. The Sacrament of Communion was given to the church to be practiced for the proclamation of the gospel until Jesus Christ returns. In the sacrament we remember what has been done for us in the death of Jesus Christ, as we hope in the resurrection and his certain return. But in the Sacrament we also participate in our union with Jesus Christ trusting in him to nurture us as his own church until we reach maturity in him. In the Sacrament we remember, we hope, and we participate as he renews us in his covenant love to go forth in his grace to love our God, one another, and the many others he sends us to. We need the Sacrament of Communion like we need his Word, that we may grow in love with our Lord who has first loved us, and to be given his grace to love the people he gives us to.