

Weekly Connector: To Salt or Not to Salt?

June 7, 2018

Hello, Church!

Last week, we wrapped up the sermon series called, "The #Blessed". Once again, what at first seemed familiar was filled with fresh waves of encouragement and challenge.

I suppose the one #Blessed statement that stood out to me most was one I have often prayed for, but apparently did not understand its full meaning: *Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8*

The prayer: purify my heart that I may see You. As I pray this prayer, I seek freedom from the sin that crouches near by - for God to give the power He promises to conquer that sin, whatever it may be. While that is a fine prayer and one that I will continue to pray, my understanding of what I am looking for is now different.

Now I see that the purity I seek is not just a pure heart, free from sin. More fundamentally, I seek that my heart exist in pure devotion to the One who should capture my attention to the point that even the largest "squirrels of distraction" are no match for His power and leadership in my life. My prayer now is simple: grant me whole devotion to You. Period.

A heart in whole/pure devotion to Jesus has no room for idols of any kind and the sin that follows in their wake.

Wow.

I pray that prayer so that I might see more of God. I did not and still do not want to miss His working in my life. And, since my prayer has changed, I see more of God than I have in a very long while. Not that He doesn't show Himself, but my eyes notice more of the breadcrumbs of His Presence.

For those who have been a part of the series, what stood out for you? How have you seen God work in your life? Please reply and let me know. I would love to hear, read, and share in the stories of His power and presence in your lives.

This Sunday, we start a new series continuing through the Sermon on the Mount called, "Salt and Light". Jesus said that His disciples are "the salt of the earth". Of course, as Jesus uses these word pictures, our minds jump to the 21st century use of salt that is found in every kitchen and on every kitchen table: a salt shaker. However, and once again, we will learn that a Christ-follower's spiritual use of salt is not what it might appear. To find out more, please come early to Sunday School as the adults and youth will prepare for the lesson through Bible Study at 9AM (Kids will have their own lesson). Then, we will gather in the Sanctuary at 10AM to find out if we are "To Salt or Not to Salt?" Don't forget to bring a friend with you.



Lastly, if you are in East Canton this weekend, please drop by our booth at the Community Festival and say hey! We'll be there from 5-9pm, Friday, and Noon-9pm on Saturday across Browning Street from the Smith Gym.

I love you, Church!

Pastor greg