

SERMON DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

The Mind of Christ

Pastor Tom Trageser

WARM-UP

1. As we go through life, our days often seem full – activities, people, events, appointments, work. In the midst of all this, there are surely things that matter more than others. As believers, how would you characterize the things in your life that matter? How do you know that these things matter? And what do you do about these things that matter? Do you see this also played out in your family? And what about in the life of EAC – what matters for EAC, how do we know, and what do we do about what matters?

DIGGING DEEPER

Today, Pastor Tom shares a passage from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, characterizing the passage as the clear description of the Mind of Christ. First of all, what do we know about this particular letter written by Paul? Why is it important to know these things about Paul and this letter to this particular church? To begin, read the full passage, Philippians 2:1-18. Let's look at three perspectives of this passage that paint the picture of the Mind of Christ.

PERSONAL DENIAL – Read: Philippians 2:6

2. Pastor Tom suggested that this verse describes Jesus as becoming 'incarnate' to earth to perform His rescue mission – becoming human to be a human among the humans that need Him – in some respects, a personal denial. Pastor Tom asks us if we too can shape our lives with some personal denial – “maybe we grab our stuff a little too tightly.” Do we? If so, in what ways?
3. Tom continued that we shouldn't let our stuff get in the way of what matters – what do we call it when our stuff does get in the way of what matters? And how do go about addressing this?

SERVANTHOOD – Read: Philippians 2:7

4. What do we understand this verse to mean, particularly in the context of verse six? Let's explore with some other passages – read John 13:1-17. What is Jesus doing and saying here? Read James 1:22-27. What is James saying here in this passage? Read Matthew 25:31-46. In Jesus' own words, what does servanthood look like? How are we to respond to those in need?
5. But Pastor Tom shared a warning here – beware that you are not doing “performance Christianity.” What does he mean by this? How do we avoid this?

GOSPEL FOCUSED – Read: Philippians 2:8

6. Pastor Tom said that this is the essence of the Mind of Christ – what does he mean? Do you also see how verse 8b is the center-point – the focal point – for this early creed or hymn contained in verses 5-11? Why is this significant? Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What does the writer/pastor of Hebrews say to us here? What are the key aspects of this passage? For the believer, what does this ‘fixation’ result in?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. In this letter to the church in Corinth, what is Paul telling them, and why? Is this for us today? If so, how?

BE FOREWARNED ABOUT FALSE GOSPELS – Read: Colossians 2:1-4

8. Pastor Tom suggested that in our day and age, false ‘Good News’ is running rampant everywhere, and we need to be aware and watchful for it, and resist it – the Gospel of Comfort; the Gospel of Prosperity; the Gospel of _____ - how would you fill in the blank? In the letter to the church in Colossae, what is Paul telling them in this passage? Are his words for us today as well? If so, how?
9. Read Galatians 1:6-10. What is Paul saying to these early churches that he established in Galatia? What is happening? Why is it happening? What does Paul say about false teachers and false Gospels? Is this for us today? If so, how?

TAKE HEART AND BE ENCOURAGED – Read: John 15:8-11

10. What is the occasion of these words of Jesus? To whom is He speaking? When is He speaking? Why is He speaking? Pastor Tom said that, “when we have the Mind of Christ, we’ll be overwhelmed with His joy.” In this passage in Jesus’ own words, how does this happen? And what is the result? And what can and should we do with this message?

PRAYER

As you think about the Mind of Christ, and how He invites you to come to Him, pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal His mind to you, His will for your life and the world around you, and what steps you can take to ensure that this message of the true Gospel is taken to the world, starting right where you live, work and play. To support you, pray that the Holy Spirit would give you ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to respond to His call to you, in order to be His hands, feet and heart in this world.

In case you missed the service, here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:

edgewateralliance.org/watch-now

facebook.com/edgewateralliance/

youtube.com/channel/UCWvQTWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw