

Discovering God's Word: Building Your Life on the Rock

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – May 3, 2009

Ephesians 4:14-15;17-18 (Paul to church in Ephesus)

14 ... no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16... 17... you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

2 Timothy 4:1-8 (Paul in prison in Rome under Nero toward the end of his life)

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Through God's Word we know...

1. THE HEART OF GOD.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. THE HEART OF MAN.

Romans 3:23

all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 7:24

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Psalms 51:3-5 (David after affair with Bathsheba & having Uriah killed)

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

3. WHAT PLEASURES (AND DISPLEASURES) GOD.

Psalms 51:10-12; 16-17

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13-15... 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

4. HOW TO LIVE OUR LIFE.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

15... the holy Scriptures,... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

5. OUR STANDING BEFORE GOD.

Romans 3:23-25

23... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice,

Hebrews 10:10

We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Through Christ, we don't have to wonder about our standing before God. We don't have to wonder if we are going to heaven.

Here's what I believe to be true as revealed in God's Word:

- We were made in the image of God and are precious to Him
- We inherited a condition of sin and were separated from God
- God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ
- Jesus died as an atoning sacrifice to pay the debt for our sin
- Jesus overcame death and rose on the 3rd day just like He said He would
- He ascended to the right hand of the Heavenly Father
- He sent His Holy Spirit to dwell inside of us
- He has given us the gift of eternal life through Him

THIS IS THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD.
YOU CAN BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THAT ROCK.