

21st Progressive Gospel Meeting

Concern for the Church

Jan 17-22 7pm nightly
2 Cor 11:23-29

Sun Singing @ Fredericksburg—2:00pm – 3:30pm

Mon Paoli Randy Weilbaker “The Underdog”

Tues Palmyra Lee Collins “Standing in the Gap”

Wed M’burg Larry Sawyer “The Concerns of God”

Thur Big Spring Greg Circle “Investing in the Church”

Fri Corydon John Harkness “The Word of God”

Sat Kansas Brent Donoho “Concern for Salvation”

Pitch-in Dessert fellowship to follow Saturday's service

2 Cor 11:23-29 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. (24) Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. (25) Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; (26) on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; (27) in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. (28) And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my concern for all the churches.

GOD IS FOR THE UNDERDOG AGAINST ALL ODDS

Rom 8:31-39 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ESV

1. God freely gave His Son for us, 32
2. God justifies us, 33
3. Christ died, was raised, & intercedes for us, 34
4. NO one, NO thing can separate us from the love of Christ, 35. Love of Christ bond is stronger than anything and anyone
5. We are more than conquerors, overcomers in this life, 37.
6. God is for us. No one is against us, 31

God is for the underdog against all odds in all situations! He wants us to continue to believe in Jesus, trust in Jesus and continue to work for Him, worship Him, win souls for Him, while we serve one another and the lost.

GIDEON - FAITH FROM THE FLEECE? Judges 6-8

Gideon is in the honor roll of faith, He.11:32. The faith that believes God exists, He is Creator, He is rewarder of God seekers and pleasing to God. God is for the underdog against all odds!

A. Gideons' weaknesses

1. Fear, his father, family, enemies (Midianites, Amalekites), Baal worshippers, God; 6:27
2. Doubts - throughout his life, if why 6:13; poor me, 6:15; 6:38 wet on fleece; 6:40 wet on ground;

3. Pride – his ephod, became self centered; 8:27

B. God's Help

1. He was with Gideon, 6:16
2. He showed signs, 6:21 sacrificed offering;
3. Spirit of the Lord came upon him – 6:34
4. He delivered with a few - 22,000 to 10,000 to 300;
7:6, 14, 15; 8:3, 7

C. Gideon's response

1. Submission to the Lord - he obeyed God with his fears and doubts
Tore down altar of Baal & Asherah, 6:25
Got soldiers together; 7
Fought Midians, 7
Determined - exhausted yet pursuing, 8:4
2. He trusted in the Lord - he went in the strength of the Lord, For the Lord & Gideon, 7:19; the sword of the Lord & Gideon. Gideon's faith in God was greater than his fears of that around him.
3. He used skill, wisdom and cunning - trumpet, pitcher, torch; 7:16
4. He took someone with him to accomplish the task
- 7:10 he didn't do it alone

God uses us in our weakest moments when we submit to him. When we are weak He is strong, 2 Co.12:9-10

Tues Palmyra Lee Collins

**Looking for a Man to Stand in the Gap
(Ezekiel 22:23-30)**

Introduction:

1. The Wall of defense - the pressing of the enemy - the hole in the wall.
2. With the Defenses down - and the morale of the defenders down - the enemy attacks the hole in the wall
3. That gap in the defense - that hole must be defended
4. God searches for someone special - someone with courage and someone with resolve

I. How the Gap Appeared

- ~ Sin - our disobedience to God caused the Gap
- ~ We have all done our part to widen the gap because we have all sinned against God
- ~ WE widen the Gap by playing into the ways of the world and the ways of Satan

II. What God Did

- ~ God has come to the rescue
- ~ Jesus has stood in the gap for us
- ~ The hole can now be defended
- ~ The hole in the wall is still there because we still live in a world of sin - but with Christ that gap can

be defended - and with Him we can stand against the ways of the world and defend ourselves, and the church, the Kingdom of God

III. **Our Responsibility**

- ~ The enemy is still pressing - Hard
- ~ In our society the gap is getting wider
- ~ God has given us the tools we need to stand
- ~ Now we must be willing to Stand in the Gap
- ~ God is teaching us How to be that person
 - *He shows us what He has done
 - *He shows us the importance of it
 - *He gives us Christ to help us defend that Gap
- ~ Now it is up to us - be the person who will stand in the Gap
- ~ May it never be said of us, that was said of the people then - ***“But none was found...”***

Wed Martinsburg Larry Sawyer“

The Concerns of God

Mark 8:27-38—“Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” ²⁸ They replied, Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Rebuke—

Concern—

Questions

- A Heads Up—
- A Rebuke—
- A Challenge—
- Human Concerns—

God’s Concerns—that we

1. Know _____.
2. Be a _____.
3. Live a _____.
4. Know the _____ of a _____.

Trust and obey

Thesis: Haggai encourages the people of his time to trust and obey our God by building His temple.

Introduction (Ezra 4.4, 536 B.C.):

- A. HISTORICAL CONTEXT (EZRA 4.1-4, ESP. 4, “...*the people of the land...frightened them from building...*”)
- B. OUR CONTEXT: There may be many things that “the people of the land” use to cause us to be frightened from building up God’s church, but let us trust and obey our God and do the work He has given us.

Discussion:

I. CONSIDER YOUR WAYS: “PLEASED AND GLORIFIED” (HAGGAI 1, LATE AUG, 520 B.C.)

- A. PROBLEM: THE PEOPLE SAY, “The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.” ...
Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate? (2-4)
- B. Consider (the Results of) Your Ways
“You Sow Much, But Harvest Little” (5-6)
- C. Consider (the Correction of) Your Ways
“That I May Be...” (7-8)
 - 1. Do What God Commands (8a)
 - 2. Please and Glorify God! (8b)
- D. Consider (the Judgment of) Your Ways
“Why? ... Because!” (9-11)
 - 1. “Because of My House which lies desolate” Reiteration of the Problem (9)
 - 2. “Because of You” – The Righteous Judgment of God (10-11)
- E. Consider The Response: obey God (12-15)
 - 1. Obedience (12a)
 - 2. Reverence (12b)
 - 3. Stirred Spirits (13-15)
 - a. By the words, “I Am with you” (13)
 - b. “They Worked on the house of **the Lord of Hosts**, their God” (1.15)

II. CONSIDER MY WORDS: “I AM WITH YOU” (HAGGAI 2.1-9, LATE OCT, 520 B.C.)

A. PROBLEM: DISCOURAGEMENT (2.1-3)

1. WHO REMEMBERS THE FORMER GLORY? (3)
 - a. Ezra 3.12-13
 - b. This is nothing in comparison (3b)
2. OUR WORK VS. GOD’S WORK
 - a. I Kings 6, 7? Exodus 35.30-35!
 - b. Remember to look to the ***glorious*** Source, not just “glorious” examples.

B. TAKE COURAGE (4-5)

1. KEEP WORKING!

(4B, REMEMBER EZRA 4.4 - “...*the people of the land...frightened them from building....*”)

- a. For I am with you! (4c-5b)
 - i. I made a promise (5a, Exodus 19.4-6)
 - a) I brought you to Myself (4)
 - b) All the earth in Mine (5)
 - c) You shall be to Me...**a holy nation** (6)
 - ii. “My Spirit abides in your midst” (5b)
 - a) To Instruct in Faith (Exo 34.8-10; Isaiah 63.10)
 - b) To Lead in Love (Exodus 29.45-46; Isaiah 63.11)
 - c) To Give Rest in Hope (Exo 33.12-14; Isa 63.14)
 - b. “Do not fear” (5c)
2. “LO, I AM WITH YOU” (MATTHEW 28.20)
 - a. I made a promise (1 John 2.25)
 - i. A Chosen Generation
 - ii. A Royal Priesthood
 - iii. We are **a Holy nation...** (1 Peter 2.9)
 - b. “My Spirit Abides in your Midst”
 - i. To Instruct in Faith (Romans 8.12-13; 2 Tim 3.16-17)
 - ii. To Lead in Love (Romans 8.14-15)
 - iii. To Give Rest in Hope (Romans 8.16-17)
 3. Do not fear, but hope (Romans 8.24-25)

C. “ONCE MORE IN A LITTLE WHILE”: TRUST GOD (6-9)

1. I WILL SHAKE THE CREATION (6-7A)
2. I WILL FILL THIS HOUSE WITH GLORY (7B-9)

III. CONSIDER OUR FUTURE: “FROM THIS DAY ONWARD” (HAGGAI 2.10-19)

- A. PROBLEM: WAS IT TAKING TOO LONG? (10)
- B. ASK FOR A RULING: CAN YOU SHORTCUT GOD’S HOLINESS? (11-14)
 - 1. Holiness is non-transferable (12)
 - 2. Uncleanness is transferable (13)
 - 3. Thus, the work of our hands, by itself, cannot be holy (14)
- C. “I WILL BLESS YOU”: TRUST AND OBEY GOD (15-19)
 - 1. CONSIDER WHEN YOU WEREN’T COOPERATING WITH GOD (15-17)
 - a. Before you started rebuilding the Temple (15)
 - b. Results of their unholiness (16)
 - c. God’s Judgment (17)
 - i. “Yet, you did not come back to me.”
 - ii. Fn: “But what did we have in common?”
 - 2. CONSIDER WHAT COOPERATION WITH GOD MEANS! (18-19)
 - a. Now that you have started working with Me (18)
 - b. Results of previous judgments are still present (19a, Hebrews 12.18-21)
 - c. But know, I will bless (19b, Hebrews 12.22-24)

Conclusion:

- A. Another Four Years, and that temple was “finished” (Ezra 5.1-5; 6.13-15, 516 B.C.)
- B. How do you see God’s Temple right now?
Consider Your Ways (Hebrews 12.25-29)
 - 1. Does it Lie Desolate? Consider your ways: Obey God (1.8)
 - 2. Does it not have it’s former glory? Consider your ways: Trust God (2.9)
 - 3. Does Its Work seem ineffective? Consider your ways: trust and obey god (2.19)
- C. Invitation: God’s work on this temple not finished (2.20-23)
 - 1. God is going to shake the Heavens and the Earth (21). will you stand?
 - 2. God has chosen those impressed with Jesus to receive Eternal Life (23). Do you believe God?
 - 3. Then, Consider Your Ways (2 Peter 1.1-3; 3.9-11)

Fri Corydon John Harkness

The Word of God: Still Alive and Active

I. The Character of God, Jesus, and the Word are well-defined without our intervention

A. Genesis 1:27.31; Exodus 3:14; John 8:57-58

B. John 1:1; Exodus 24:12

II. Our concern is not for the Word (it's fine). It's the world's treatment of the Word

A. 2 Cor 3:1-5

B. There is nothing new under the sun (John 18:37; 2 Timothy 4:3)

III. The Difference between God's Defined Truth and Man's ill-defined Truth

A. Hebrews 4:1-13

NOTES

Concern for Salvation

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:1-10

INTRO:

Peter writing to Who? Aliens (strangers) Elect (chosen)

I. Guarded Through Faith (vs 1-5)

- A. God's work in Man's Salvation
 - 1. God foreknew and formulated a plan
 - 2. The Spirit sanctifies God's people through revelation of truth
 - 3. Jesus' blood atones sin as they walk in obedience (1 Jn 1:7)
- B. The Christian is sustained by hope based on:
 - 1. The mercy of God
 - 2. The resurrection of Christ
 - 3. The inheritance kept for him
 - a. Incorruptible, Eternal, Reserved
- C. The Christians hope involves a "new birth" (v. 3)

II. Genuineness Of Your Faith (vs 6-7)

Faith is made, not born

July 19, A.D. 64 the great fire of Rome began and lasted for three days.

The Roman historian Tacitus blamed the fire on the Emperor Nero and indicated Nero scapegoated Christians as responsible for the fire.

The subsequent persecution of Nero was so horrendous that many Romans actually sympathized with the Christians.

William Barclay (Daily Study Bible) recounts what Tacitus recorded:

"A huge multitude of Christians perished in the most sadistic ways. Nero rolled the Christians in pitch, and then set light to them, while they were still alive and used them as living torches of flame to light his gardens.

Some Christians, he would sew up in the skins of wild animals, and then set his hunting dogs upon them for hunting pleasure...

Or even for some, he would set them in an arena and loose large lions upon them that had been denied food for a lengthy time.

- A. Trials are one of the ways God builds faith
 - 1. God does not tempt us (James 1:13)
 - 2. He does use things that happen to shape us
 - a. What does Peter, say to those enduring such torment?
 - i. What about families who were torn apart--
 - b. How could mere words ease the pain of such evil?
- B. Faith is proved genuine when it is tested (v. 7)
 - 1. The reward for building a strong faith
 - 2. Meeting Christ in honor, face to face
- C. Our inheritance has already begun (v. 9)
 - 1. The advantage of those in the Christian age
 - 2. Many longed for what we now see clearly
 - a. Mystery – something formerly hidden, now revealed

III. Outcome Of Your Faith (vs 8-10)

- A. Despite the suffering, Peter urged them to remember the outcome.
 - 1. “How can God let something like this happen?”
 - a. “How can there be a God in a world like this?”
 - b. “Why do bad things happen to good people?”
- B. Peter points to their faith and comparing the horrors of their life’s circumstances.
 - 1. “Rejoice with joy... (verse 8)
 - 2. Peter points to the outcome – the salvation of your souls.
 - i. They endure by and through faith.
 - 3. It is a whole new way of living.
 - i. “What you see is NOT what you get.” –
 - ii. There is more to life and living than just WHAT YOU SEE

Conclusions & Consequences

- A. Is Salvation enough?
- B. What

If you would like to listen to the recordings of the meeting, you can find them at

PalmyrachurchofChrist.org/sipgm.html

There is also a pdf copy of the booklet available.