

Sermon Notes – 08.21.2016 “What Are You Becoming”

We are probably always changing. There is a drift in life – The drift in the World is contrary to God

- ... we must **pay much closer attention** to what we have heard, **so that we do not drift away from it.** **Hebrews 2:1**
- What is the “set” of your mind **Colossians 3:2** “...set your mind...”–
 - Every Day we are setting and resetting our “Normal”
 - There are ways we need to change & Ways we must remain steadfast

The Elections and Changes In the People Around Us – I believe the Lord Would Have Our Hearts

So that we are His and He can Use Us to show His Heart to the people who need to see Him

Our nation is in trouble, “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.” **Psalm 46:1**

We are His Workmanship

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

We Are His witnesses – Acts 1:8

We All Have a Gift to Use in a World Whose Love is Growing Cold (**Matthew 24:12-13**)

1 Peter 4:7-11 **The end of all things is near;** therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. **8** Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Be hospitable to one another without complaint. **10** As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **11** Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:30-32 **Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,** by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. *(To “be,” we need to “become” – day by day)*

- We Are “Sealed” by the Holy Spirit – “Marked for preservation”
- We ministered before to one another – release from bitterness – It’s a work in progress
- Let’s go on – Release from Wrath, Anger, Clamor, Slander and Malice

It’s an Interesting List for What We See Today

Wrath – Passion / Hot Anger (Thumos),

Anger (Orge) 2) “agitation of the soul, impulse, desire, any violent emotion, but especially anger”,

Clamor – Outcry,

Slander – “...reproachful injurious speech,”

Malice – “ill-will, desire to injure...wickedness that is not ashamed to break laws...evil, trouble”

(Thayer’s New Testament Words)

We have authority in any circumstance to be the “different” ones.

- To be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving in just the same way that God “In Christ” forgives us

We Have Authority Over Our Own Spirit to Be:

Kind - Useful, virtuous, good, mild, benevolent, pleasant (as opp. to harsh, hard sharp, bitter)

Tender-hearted – “Good strong intestines” – Compassionate (Love others easily)

Forgiving - To do something pleasant or agreeable, to do a favor to, to show one’s self gracious, kind, benevolent, to grant forgiveness, to pardon

Beware The little Changes – Which Direction Are They Taking Us?

- **Small incremental Steps that we Don’t Notice Until There is A Problem**
- **Where do we stand?** (At least a little bit to the good side of center)
 - If you don’t want to fall “that” way, you lean “this” way

So, “What Are We Becoming, AND How do we make the changes and maintain the “sets”

Timothy was in the midst of Pagans – Listen to the instructions he is given

- **Give attention to declaring the truth – we are always “Declaring”**
 - **Picture of ebbs and flows – If truth isn’t flowing out – compromise and error are probably flowing in**
- **Pay Close attention to yourself and what you are teaching – We are always “Teaching”**

1 Timothy 4:13-16 Until I come, **give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.** **14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you,** which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. **15 Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.** **16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.**

- Take pains / Be absorbed - to care for, attend to carefully, practice, to meditate, i.e. to devise, contrive; to revolve in the mind (Positive Distraction?)
- Why do we want our “progress / benefit” to be evident?
- Crisis Mode – we shift when we hit it – So pay close attention to yourself
- Persevere – Not just for yourselves – you have an audience

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