

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

September 9, 2020

John 5: 40 -47

40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. 41 I receive not honour from men. 42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. 43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive 44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only? 45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Pastor Tom began with a quick mention of the Reader's Forum in the Tribune today. The writer referred to Hosea 4. It will not be whoever is elected in November that will solve the issues confronting our nation. It should be the Church that orchestrates the changes needed in our country.

Isaiah 9:18

(as well as other verses in Chapter 9 such as verse 6 describe the Person of the Son of God))

"For wickedness burneth as the fire: it shall devour the briers and thorns, and shall kindle in the thickets of the forest, and they shall mount up like the lifting up of smoke."

*The wickedness that burns like a fire. Pastor Tom mentioned the frequent violence in the West End recently as an example of the wickedness.

The root of anger is unforgiveness. (from Sunday's Sermon)

The root of violence is wickedness (evil).

God is not evil but Satan is.

The root of our nation's problems is Satan because Satan would like to see wickedness in our churches so that the Church cannot make a difference in the world's problems. (See note above from Reader's Forum)

*The fire (evil) devours the kindling quickly and then increases, builds the fire.

[When you learn to build a fire in scouts, you learn to begin with the small dry tinder. After getting the tinder to light, then you slowly add the kindling wood, which are medium-sized sticks. Finally, when the kindling has caught, then you can add on the bigger logs that will throw more heat. You cannot start a fire from a match to a log.]

Isaiah 64:6

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

*Here Isaiah has a word from God but it's like he is talking to the Church of today. Filthy rags are useless for cleaning something. 'All our righteousnesses' could include our 'self-righteousness'. We must look at our own attitudes and be humbled or we will be useless to God and the church.

*The Church (and us) will fade like a dead leaf and then be blown away, if we do not stay true to our Biblical roots and beliefs.

*To do this, we must be accountable within the Church. (Maybe we need 'Mentor Classes' on how to disciple new members?)

John 5:41

“I receive not honour from men.”

I Thessalonians 2:1-6 and 12

“1 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: 2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention. 3 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: 4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. 5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness;

God is witness: 6 Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ....

12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.”

*Verses 1 - 6 here refer to our conduct (how we act) because verse 12 is our purpose (why we act that way).

*We as believers in Jesus Christ are set to a higher standard of behavior because of our purpose (calling).

II Thessalonians 2:3

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”

*Pastor Tom explained that we must be on our feet, standing up, before we can fall.

John 5:43

“I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive”

*When the Son of Perdition (anti-Christ) arrives on scene, he will be well-liked at first, solving problems in the beginning. He will be received by most people. Then his true colors will show how evil he is and some people will be able to see the truth.

John 5: 45 - 47

“45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?”

*Jesus was talking to the Jewish leaders throughout this chapter. These Jews revered Moses almost as much as God Himself. They put Moses on a pedestal. So Jesus was saying to them - so if you want to receive me (accept me as the Son of God) just read about what Moses said because he was talking about me!

*We are just like the Jews were then. We have the Living Word of God from 2000+ years ago and it's still relevant today. So how can we not believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God!?

The end of chapter 5 brings us to the conclusion of the defense Jesus mounted against the accusations of the Jewish leaders concerning his claim to be the Son of God.

Next week we will cross the river with Jesus to begin chapter 6.

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*
