

The Mission of God's People - 1 Corinthians 16:5-24
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

The end of a long journey can bring a complex set of emotions. At once you can feel happy and excited having accomplished something significant, sad that the journey is over, relieved that the long journey is complete, and have feelings of anticipation about getting to start something new. As pastor of Genesis, I have these feelings this week as our study of 1 Corinthians comes to its end. It is my hope that this series has blessed you and gone a long way toward building the church. We ended up with 40 sermons preached in a little over a year (with a few breaks). I can also imagine the Apostle Paul sitting with his scribe dictating out the letter to him and trying to come up with the exact wording as he finishes this correspondence to a church he planted and that he loves. Paul's closing words, though, are a bit of a travel itinerary for several people who have or are going to serve the Corinthian Church, but also who are part of the larger mission in which Paul is engaging. This mission is a Jesus lovin, Gospel preaching, disciple making, church planting effort as Paul seeks to plant a Gospel seed and raise the Jesus flag in a church in every major city.

As we read we may ask, what does a travel agenda have to do with me? The answer is not in the agenda, but in what the plans for Paul, Timothy, Apollos, and even Stephanas represents. All of these individuals are partners in the Gospel mission, as is the Corinthian church. This mission is for the church in this decadent city, as all of them at one point or another will travel to Corinth, but the mission also involves the church as the Corinthians believers need to understand that they are part of something much bigger and more important than themselves or even than their local church.

Ours is an individualistic age, a time in which we have been told over and over again that my own happiness is the ultimate good. As a result we often become religious consumers seeking to have needs met in our religious experiences rather than seeking a sense of mission and a call to something greater. The problem is that the seeking of self-fulfilling religious experiences will never satisfy truly. We were made to experience the grandeur and majesty of God and our fulfillment will come as we are wrapped up in something much greater than us. The way we experience this is by giving our lives away, embracing the self-sacrificing mission God has for His people, and joining in His purpose. It seems that the Corinthian church is a little miffed that Paul is not already on his way, Timothy is not there yet, and Apollos is not always there just for them. This closing travel itinerary reminds them of the greater mission and tells the Corinthian church to take their post. It is the reminder of the power of partnership in the mission of God.

So what does this mean for Genesis? Several things for you to think about as you consider our church. First, the mission of God is core to who we are. As a church we want to be invested in this Jesus lovin, Gospel preaching, disciple making, church planting adventure, and we want to involve you! It is not that we don't care about meeting your needs, we do. Its just that we honestly believe that your needs are actually met through self-sacrifice to a greater cause rather than self-fulfillment in consumeristic religion. Second, the mission we have is both local and global. The church in Corinth was the mission outpost for that city, yet their partnership with Paul also gave them connection to the global mission. We are planted in Eureka, and it is our vision to be a community church for this city. Yet, we are also intentionally engaged in reaching the nations with the Gospel and working for justice around the world. Third, we believe in partnership and love our partners. As a church we are invested in several

organizations invested in this mission. These organizations serve our church equipping us for the mission. But we also partner with them as we seek to be part of something larger. Finally, each of us has a place in this mission. And to this fact Paul gives us our marching orders in verses 13-14. "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." These are bold challenges giving by a commanding officer to Gospel troops. Paul doesn't end the letter with niceties and warm cuddlies. He challenges the church in Corinth to act like men (as opposed to acting like children which he accused them of in chapter 3). Children seek to have their own needs met. The Corinthians needed to hear the call to a greater purpose, to give themselves away for the ultimate cause. Only in this will we truly find joy and fulfillment.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Hosea 3	Hosea 4	Hosea 5	Hosea 6	Hosea 7	Hosea 8	Hosea 9

Reading from this past week: 1 Corinthians 16:5-24

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-11

Family Worship

Song - *What a Friend*

<https://youtu.be/n6qXfZPtzM>

Gospel Project

Story: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Story Point: Jesus proved He was alive.

Big Picture Question: Where is Jesus now?

Answer: Jesus ascended to heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of the Father.

Scripture: Luke 24

New City Catechism

Question #48: What is the church?

Answer: A community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together.

Verse: 2 Thessalonians 2:13

Scripture

1 Corinthians 16:5-24

*Why can't Paul come right away? What does this say about Paul's mission and purpose?

*What are some ways you see your church engaged in our mission to Eureka? What are some ways we are involved in the global mission of God?

*How could we pray for God's mission? What could we do to give for God's mission? How might we actually go and get involved in God's mission?

Prayer

*Use Psalm 20 in your prayer this week

*Pray that our church would be a Jesus lovin', Gospel preaching, disciple making, church planting church.

*Make sure you give thanks this week.