

Keeping it Real by Going Deeper!

(GBC Sunday August 23rd 2020 - Ps Tony R)

The Passage & The Message: 2 Corinthians chapter 4:1-18

Getting Started:

As much as I am a big fan of the SPLAT method we have employed for these post sermon studies, for this one I am breaking with tradition. However, if you want to follow that method to the passage for this week please do so, otherwise I have seven key points I would like you consider that are listed below that come directly from the passage. All of these were raised within last Sunday's message though not in the format I have given you below. These seven truths are aspects that mark the mission and ministry of the church.

Open in Prayer:

... asking God to show you your true self this day and for God to show himself again through these words of His apostle Paul.

Going Deeper:

"What is the Christian mission?" To answer that question I have 7 points I want to direct your attention to that Paul gives to the Corinthian church in chapter four of his second letter.

1. The Mission of God's people the Church is "to not lose heart". Vs 1. Paul says, "Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart".

- Why is Paul saying this at this particular time as he writes?
- What reasons can you give right now for you being able to say with Paul, "I do not lose heart".

2. The Mission of God's people the Church is to Renounce deceitful ways (openly). Next vs 2. "But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word".

- This is a past tense statement by Paul. Just for a moment, can you recall past behaviours, attitudes or beliefs that you have openly renounced now that you have come to put your faith in Jesus?

3. The Mission of God's people the Church is to Speak God's truth plainly. and boldly. "But, by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God".(vs 2)

- What is the "truth" that Paul speaks about here and how is speaking this truth a way of commending himself to everyone's conscience?
- Why do you think Paul adds the words, "in the sight of God"?

4. The Mission of God's people the Church is to preach Jesus Christ as Lord and not ourselves. v⁵ "For what **we proclaim** is not ourselves, **but Jesus Christ as Lord**, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake".

- From vs 3 through to vs 6 we have an explanation of how people (Including Paul) come to know and experience God's saving grace. What stands out to you most in these verses?
- How does what is said in these verses speak to the issue of God's Mission for the Church today?

5. The Mission of God's people the Church is to believe and to speak of our hope in God because of the resurrection of Jesus and our future together with Him.

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake,

- How does the promise of our future with Jesus and all God's people spur us on in mission as His church?

6. The Mission of God's people the Church is to result in Thanksgiving to God (vs 15).

- How can we do this now?
- Is thanksgiving to God something that stands out as a regular part of your life? How?

7. The Mission of God's people the Church is to "not focus on our transient troubles which are seen but rather to focus on what is eternal and unseen" (vs16-18).

- What is the unseen and seen aspects of life that Paul speaks of here?
- Which for you are easy to focus on and why? (the seen or the unseen).

In Conclusion:

You will have noticed in our walk through this passage just now we missed out discussing verses 7 through 12 which speak about the problems, power, and purpose that are involved in the mission God has for His church.

I spoke about these at length on Sunday. As we conclude, our study of this passage maybe take some time to think about these verses in light of your own walk with Christ.

How have you experienced problems, and God's power, and seen His purpose worked out in your life as you have sort to be on His mission as a part of his Church for his glory?

Prayer

Please take some time to pray for our local fellowship of GBC, which you are a part of on God's Mission to live among, for His Glory, our joy and sanctification and for the salvation of the lost.

Grace and Peace to you as we 'Keep it Real by Going Deeper' by taking both God's and our concerns to Him through prayer.

God's Message for Today's Church

(Sunday August 23rd with Gympie Baptist Church)

About two months ago, we asked you the congregation to send in questions and concerns that you had around all that was happening as a result of the Covid pandemic. Out of those responses, we have put together four questions that we believe summarise and capture the essence of your responses. This morning Pastor Tony will address question two, in this four part series from Paul's words found in Second Corinthians chapter four.

Question 2. What is the Mission of the Church?

The key passage for this morning message is 2 Corinthians Chapter 4:1-18.

1. God's ministry to Paul (and its effects)

4 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God's ministry to Paul is personal

God's ministry to Paul is public

God's ministry to Paul is proclamation

2. God's Mission through God's People (and its effects).

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (ESV)

God's Mission through God's People is painful

God's Mission through God's People is powerful

God's Mission through God's People is purposeful

Some Immediate Application: Our response through praise and prayer to God's Word today.

- What do you want **to praise God** for this morning, now that we have heard His Word?

- What do you want **to pray to God** this morning, now that we have heard His Word?

Please join us now in doing so...