Sermon Notes – 09.05.2021 The Unity that God Calls Us To – We Are One In Christ

It is a general principle that when God is Blessing – He Gathers / When God is Chastising, He Scatters

If His people did evil in His sight, God promised:

Deuteronomy 4:27 "**The LORD will scatter you** among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD drives you.

But…

Deuteronomy 30:1-4 "So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, 2 and **you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul** according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, 3 then the **LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again** from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4 "If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there **the LORD your God will gather you**, and from there He will bring you back.

There is Much that Could to Divide Us, But God Provides One Way to Unity

Definition of the Biblical Word, "Church" – The assembly of those who are called out…those who anywhere, in a city, village, constitute such a company and are **united into one body**.

(adapted from "Thayer's NT Words")

Jesus Prayed:

John 17:20-21 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 **that they may all be one**; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Keep in Mind - Christ is Building a Unified Body & He invited "Whosoever Will."

In Light of This, Remember, God the Father Commanded, "that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us." **1John 3:23**

> **John 15:11-12** "These things I have spoken to you **so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full**. 12 "This is My commandment, that you **love one another, just as I have loved you.**

Jesus Wil Give Us What we Need to Succeed – There is No Other Supply

Romans 12:4-5 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so **we, who are many, are one body in Christ**, and individually members one of another.

The Gospel & The Friendship Application

Faith and Obedience to Christ Make Us One

Galatians 3:26-28 For **you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus**. 27 For all of **you who were baptized into Christ** have **clothed yourselves with Christ**. 28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus**.

The Unity of the Faith and the Knowledge of the Son of God are at the Core

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, **to the building up of the body of Christ**; 13 **until we all attain to the unity of the faith**, and of **the knowledge of the Son of God,** to a mature man, **to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ**.

Striving together for the faith of the gospel

Philippians 1:27 Only **conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that **you are standing firm in one spirit**, with **one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

Consider the Twelve Apostles – The Reason they Were Gathered was to "Follow" Jesus

Matthew 10:2-4 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother; and **James** the son of Zebedee, and **John** his brother; 3 **Philip** and **Bartholomew**; **Thomas** and **Matthew** the tax collector; **James the son of Alphaeus**, and **Thaddaeus**; 4 **Simon the Zealot**, and **Judas Iscariot**, the one who betrayed Him.

Jesus Christ Gave Us the Lord's Table (Communion)

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 Is not **the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ**? Is not **the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ**? 17 **Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.**

The Salvation We Have in Him Makes our Differences Pale
He Loved the Whole World & He Died the Same Death for Each One of Us

We Come to the Table as Equals – His Blood and His Presence Dwarf Our Differences – We Are One