

Sermon Notes – 02.27.2022 – Who Are You and Where Are You Going?

I want to Speak Humbly and Carefully to Those Going Through Trials

WE often Explain Why We Are the Way We Are as an Unavoidable Outcome of Our Experiences

We Have a Greater Promise

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

God Offers Us a Rich New Identity When We Come to Christ

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Ephesians 4:22-24 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, **23** and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

We Have Authority in Christ to Do These Things

There Are Biblical Arguments to Support Deciding to Wisely Respond to Other's Words and Actions

But – Beware of becoming controlled by or defined by our bad reactions to the badness of others.

Much of That Can Be Lost by Allowing the Misdeeds of Others to Rule in Our hearts

Colossians 3:12-17 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17** Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

The Big “Cautionary” Question

Who Are We Without Jesus Christ – Who Are We Apart From Him?

88 Occurrences of “In Christ” in the New Testament (another 93 “In Him”)

- Our Faith is “in Christ”
- Our Redemption is “in Christ”
- Eternal Life is “in Christ”
- Freedom from Condemnation is “in Christ”
- The Love of God is “in Christ”
- Approval and Grace are “in Christ”

“He is to Us – “The way, the truth and the Life.” John 14:6

Colossians 2:2-3 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Who Are We and Where are We Going?

Who Are We? We Are in Christ and We Need to be Following Christ to the Point That We Can

Confidently Say, I Am In Christ and One Day I Will See Him as He Is.

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now **we are children of God**, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. **We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

Where Are We Going? To a Meeting With Him In the Air

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17** Then **we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.