

Sunday, July 12, 2020—The Present Distress & The Bottom Line

Introduction

- The past two Sunday I departed from our study of Colossians to address matters related to the “present distress” in which we find ourselves.
 - I Corinthians 7:26
- Two weeks ago, we looked at The Present Distress & The Local Church in which we considered the following:
 - Acts 26:2, 29—the example of the Apostle Paul. Paul thought himself “happy” despite his political fortunes and mistreatment.
 - Romans 12:10; 14:13—mask wearing in the local church and the opportunity to practice grace and one-anothering with each other.
 - I Corinthians 12:25—same care one for another
 - Galatians 4:13—by love serve one another
 - Galatians 5:15--**should not** be biting, devouring, and consuming one another
 - Ephesians 4:2—forbearing one another in love
- Last week, I addressed The Present Distress & The Fourth Turning (a message that has been viewed over 1,300 times this week between YouTube & Facebook) in which we reviewed the Biblical model for understanding history (the line, the wheel, and the hill) and discussed where America is at in this winter season.
 - II Timothy 4:12—we need to preach the word regardless of the season in which we find ourselves.
 - Colossians 3:1-2—we need to have our affections in order and set in the proper place.
- This morning I want to end this mini-series by talking about The Present Distress & The Bottom Line

The Bottom Line

- Romans 1:16—the power of God unto salvation is found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- I Corinthians 1:18, 23-25—only the preaching of the cross possesses the capacity to change someone’s heart.
- II Corinthians 5:14—Christ died for all that is every man, woman, and child regardless of _____.
 - Galatians 2:2—Paul preached the “among the Gentiles.” Paul’s gospel is not focus on groups but on individual in every nation and culture for the last 2,000 years. The gospel that we preach meets the need of every human heart and fills up the individual’s life with Christ and our completeness in Him.
 - All souls matter to God. Christ died for all.
- II Corinthians 5:15—we “should not” live unto ourselves but unto Christ who died for us and rose again.
 - I Corinthians 6:20
 - Philippians 3:10—Paul’s desire was to “know” Christ. Hadn’t Paul seen and spoken to the risen and glorified Christ? In what sense did Paul want to “know him?”
 - The Greek word translated “know” in this verse is the *ginōskō*. Consider the 1st and 4th meanings of this word, according to *Strong’s Concordance*.
 - to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of perceive
 - to become acquainted with, to know
 - Paul did not just want to know stuff about God (*gnosis* or *epignōsis*) he wanted to know or become acquainted with Jesus Christ in the personal details of his own life.
 - This is what we need now more than ever a personal relationship with the God of the universe who has made you his friend by reconciliation so that when the storms of life come we are like those trees in Palms 1 planted by the rivers of water.
 - Romans 12:2
 - II Corinthians 10:4-5
 - I Samuel 17:37-39—we need to prove God in our lives and know that we can trust him and rely on him.

- Ephesians 4:1-2; 5:1-3—our responsibility is not to live unto ourselves but as “becometh saints.”
- I Thessalonians 5:14-15
- II Corinthians 5:17—if we want our society and culture to change, we need to get God the Holy Spirit into the hearts of men via the preaching of the gospel.
 - Romans 5:5
 - Galatians 4:6
- II Corinthians 5:18-20—this planet is not our home or our hope. We have been left here by Christ in His stead to represent him and preach the ministry of reconciliation.
 - Philippians 3:20
 - Colossians 3:1-2
 - II Timothy 2:1-4—don’t so entangled with the affairs of this life that you fail to fulfill your ambassadorship.
- Colossians 3:4—we need to focus on our blessed hope.
 - I Thessalonians 1:10
 - I Timothy 1:1
 - Titus 3:13—it is hope that we see us through The Present Distress