

Distracted

Troubling The Darkness - Week 13 (9-28-22)

Colossians 3:1-4

I. Pulling Back to Re-Focus

- A. In operating a vehicle there are roads that you can follow, but in flying or sailing there are no roads and you must constantly be aware of what direction you are headed.
- B. Hebrews 11:6
 - 1. Everything we believe as christians hinges on the existence of God. That belief, therefore, should move you to do something. Pursue Him!
 - 2. Charles Spurgeon “When asked, ‘what is more important: praying or reading the bible?’ I ask, ‘what is more important: breathing in or breathing out?’”
- C. Jesus was constantly pulling away to spend time with the Father.
 - 1. Luke 5:16 - “But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray [in seclusion.]” also: Matt. 14:23, Mark 6:46, Luke 6:12, Mark 1:35, Luke 9:18
 - a) Just like us, Jesus could not completely leave the earth in order to plug in to God but He did isolate Himself the best that He could.
 - (1) Temporarily eliminating distractions to regain focus is crucial
 - b) Matt. 26:36 - Jesus’ response to intense hardship was to go off and pray. He had developed that habit and knew the importance of seeking the Father.
 - (1) What is your response to challenges and hardship?
- D. Jude 1:17-23
 - 1. Jude reminds them how to combat the darkness around them...
- E. I believe the Church needs to come back to a deep and intimate personal relationship with God through Christ.
 - 1. We need to know what we believe and why we believe it
 - a) 1 Peter 3:13-15

II. Know the Big and little Goals

- A. We need to actually know what the goal is.
 - 1. The enemy would love for christianity to loosen its grip on its core beliefs, but has nothing to worry about if most of the church doesn’t even know what its core beliefs are.
 - a) A Gallup Poll shows that only 25% of Christians in the US believe that the Bible is literally the Word of God. 58% said that it is inspired but not to be taken literally.
 - b) A 2020 study by Arizona Christian University shows that only 1/3 of “Christians” embrace that salvation is through Christ alone while 2/3 believe that it can be earned.
 - (1) Peter didn’t have full understanding of the goal when he cut off the soldier’s ear in John 18:10 - Things were not going the way he thought they should be.
 - (a) Fast forward to Acts 2:14-41 - Peter finally understood the goal.

- B. The Goal of the enemy - “steal, kill, and destroy” Jesus’ Goal - “abundant life”
 - 1. John 10:10
- C. Sometimes only looking at the overall big goal can be overwhelming and actually paralyzes us. That’s why it’s good to also look at the smaller step by step goals that are more directly in front of us.

III. Renewing your mind and Taking thoughts captive

- A. Be aware of when you’re being drawn away!
 - 1. Paul Confronts Peter - Galatians 2:11-14
 - a) Peter was being distracted from the truth of the gospel by his peers.
 - b) He needed to have his mind renewed or have someone’s outside perspective to help him see his error.
- B. Romans 12:1-2 - In order for us to stay focused on the will and purposes of God, we must have our minds renewed. That requires being a living sacrifice and laying down our own desires and distractions. (Sometimes we distract our selves).
- C. 2 Corin. 10:3-4 Realize that the enemy attacks our hearts and minds.

Finally, Brethren... Philippians 4:8