

WORSHIP: SCATTERED

A vision for the Monday-Saturday Christian life from Ephesians

Stonebrook Sunday AM, 6/24/18, Matt Heerema

Please open your bibles to Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Last week was Worship gathered, what we do on Sunday AM.

This week is about Sunday PM - Saturday

Big idea: we gather together on Sunday AM, from all walks of life, all backgrounds, all situations, to join our streams of worship as one in order to encourage and instruct one another. To remind each other of the Gospel, and to send each other out on Gospel mission.

What are we sending ourselves out to do? The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) - Make disciples from all the nations. Baptizing them in the name of the father, son, and holy spirit, and teaching them to obey all the he commanded us.

So are we supposed to spend every moment of every day evangelizing? Well, manifestly no, there is food to eat and dishes to be done and money that needs to be made so we can continue to live. So what are we sending ourselves out to do?

To live the Christian life.

QUESTION: How do you feel you are doing at doing what God is calling you to do? Are you square in the center of his will, daily going about each task with a firm confidence that you are doing the right things? Or do you feel a little confused about what those things are? Or perhaps you are a little worried that you aren't doing the right things. Or maybe you are very worried.

What does that daily life of a Christian who is fully in the middle of God's will look like? Can we answer that question?

We can. And to get there. We're going to have an overview of the book of Ephesians.

5:15-17

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

I want to read a large chunk of Ephesians 1 & 2 to set the tone here. Listen to Paul's heart for all Christians.

READ: Ephesians 1:3-10; 1:15-2:10

Every believer in Christ has an immense hope and motivation for life: we have been adopted as children of God and given every possible spiritual blessing we could ever want and need as an inheritance. We have a down-payment and guarantee of that treasure in the holy spirit. We, who were once children of wrath, were made alive by a God who loves us, simply for the sake of love, not because of anything about us, in fact, in spite of all the bad things about us, and he has a mission for us. Good works.

We make the best use of the time by walking in those good works:

4:1

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

5:15-17

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Paul outlines four areas in this letter, where we can powerfully show that we are adopted children of God by the way we live our lives in light of his grace and mercy. And as we do that in each area, we will reveal who God is and what he is like to ourselves, to the watching world, and the spiritual powers who are watching us.

These four areas are The Church Family, Home, Work, and our personal inner life.

IN THE CHURCH

Ephesians 2:17-22

17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...

3:8-12

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 **so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.**

Paul goes in chapter 4 to say that every single individual has a vital role to play in the church:

Ephesians 4:15-16 (ESV)

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

One thing to notice here is that the Christian is to view his whole life as done within the context of the church family. Going to church is not one piece of your personal life, the individual pieces of your life are part of your church life. The church is a family together on a mission, and all of life is to be seen in that context. I'll say it again:

The church is not one piece of your personal life. All the pieces of your personal life are part of your life in the church.

(Not talking about participation in programs, I am talking about the family we have here. Brothers and sisters sharing our joys and struggles, and helping one another grow up into Christ likeness as we confess sin to one another and share truth with one another.)

How are those pieces fitting at present? What changes do you need make in the way you order your world?

IN THE HOME

Spouses

5:22-26; 33

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Children

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Parents

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Making the best use of your time, doing God's will, involves caring deeply for the home front so that it thrives. Are you balancing your life's work load your involvement in all the areas of your life so that you can help your church family thrive, and home-family to thrive?

Are you doing the necessary work of confession and repentance, forgiveness, communication, getting counseling where necessary, and doing the necessary heart work to be:

- an excellent, loving, husband who encourages and nourishes his wife as he gives up his own demands to serve her, his children, his church, and his community?
- Being a loving, respectful wife who partners with her husband on the family's mission in the church and in the community.
- Being an obedient and helpful child, who jumps in with their family on their mission?
- Being a helpful, servant hearted roommate, who does the dishes for everyone even when they haven't done it in weeks, just to show God's mercy, grace, love, and undeserved gift?

What changes need to be made on the home front in your life? What help do you need to seek out this week to make the best use of the time?

What activities do you need to cancel, what project do you need to drop, because they prevent your family from being on mission together because you are too busy going between every activity?

AT WORK

Employees

5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

Bosses

9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

- To the boss who sees your excellent work: an opportunity to bring the gospel of God's unmerited favor toward them: "I serve Christ, and you benefit."
- If the boss doesn't see, keep going. The Lord sees and will reward you.
- Bosses, you have an opportunity to image God to your employees. His mercy, grace, justice, kindness, training.
- Excellence at work gives opportunity for evangelism, in any field.

SELF

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

The bookends of Ephesians remind us of what is at stake. We have an enemy that is actively trying to kill us. The way to wage war is this gospel lens on all of life. Paul goes on to write about the armor of God. Here's a clue to all those pieces: all the pieces of the armor are Jesus. Salvation is a gift from HIM. Faith in HIM, HIS righteousness protects us, HE IS the truth, the gospel that makes you ready to stand firm is the news about HIM.

SUMMARY:

The exhortation today is to walk in a manner worthy of that calling! Make the best use of the time! Understand the Lord's will. There is repentance to be done. Changes in your life to be made. Realignment of priorities, activities, projects, schedules. What are those things for you? We'll get into more depth in all these areas in coming weeks, but I wanted to give an overview today to show how our Sunday worship connects to the rest of life.

WE ARE AT WAR: REMEMBER THE GOSPEL

There is a danger here when we focus on the work itself. We will NEVER be justified before God, we will never be saved by our work. Our work will never be good enough to save us. Only Christ's work is effective for salvation.

Even our righteous deeds are as filthy rags before God in His holiness, and are made clean only through Jesus blood.

And even our worst deeds can be redeemed by Jesus's blood through repentance and faith in His work on our behalf.

Our good works are a response. "Go and love others as I have loved you, is Jesus's command." So let your good work be done as a loving response, you will drive yourself mad either out of despair, or out of pride, if you seek justification before God through your works.

We can rest easy because God is pleased with us as his children because of Christ. But we are his children and he has work for us to do!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Consider the questions from the sermon. As we seek to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling we have received” - as we seek to “walk in the good work that God has created for us, in advance, to walk in” - as we see to “make the best use of the time, not as unwise but as wise, understanding what the will of the Lord is...”

Be open with your small group, its why they're there, and why you're here.

- 1) How do you feel you are doing at doing what God is calling you to do? Are you square in the center of his will, daily going about each task with a firm confidence that you are doing the right things? Or do you feel a little confused about what those things are? Or perhaps you are a little worried that you aren't doing the right things. Or maybe you are very worried.
- 2) **In the church family:** the church is not merely a part of our personal life, our personal life is within the context of the church family. Do you live your life in this way? How? What changes do you need to consider about the way you order your world?
- 3) **At home:** What changes need to be made on the home front in your life in order for it to thrive? What help do you need to seek out this week to make the best use of the time? What activities do you need to cancel, what project do you need to drop, because they prevent your family from being on mission together because you are too busy going between every activity?
- 4) **At work:** Are you doing your work as if Jesus was your boss? What should/does that look like? Do you take advantage of opportunities to explain why you work the way you do? What needs to change in order to have this kind of testimony?
- 5) **The Spiritual War:** Are you living with the reality that you have an enemy who is trying to derail you from this power life of witness? How are you doing at “putting on the full armor of God” (i.e., “putting on Christ”)? What changes need to be made?