

GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

3 - The Beauty of "Us"

Announcements:

1/17 @7:30 -

Prayer

1/18 @6:30 -

Grace Group

1/21 @8:30 -

Sunday School

1/21 AFTER SERVICE

Congregational

Meeting

1/21 @6:00 -

Family Night

PSALM 9

ICE BREAKER: Are you good at receiving help? Why or why not?

I recently had the blessing and privilege of visiting my Aunt and Uncle's Church in Pittsburgh PA. It was a wonderful church and truly, I was blessed to be able to go. They were kind, open, loving and compassionate to me and my family who were there under some very difficult situations. It was nice for me to be able to see them and how they worked and loved, in particular, my Aunt and Uncle with hugs and kind words and even good food. (but let me say this, "Enchiladas" made in Pennsylvania are *very* different from ones in New Mexico!). But with all that being said, I still missed being able to go to *my* church. I even hopped online right after service ended to be able to live stream ours out there! This is because, as we noted on Sunday, though we have a bond, and a connection in some sense with all believers everywhere, there is a particular type of bond that each local congregation has with each other. One of the particular bonds that each church has is the call to *grow together* in a way that is particular. It is with this thought in mind that we can read our passage for today.

READ: Hebrews 10:19-25

This passage marks what I would call the "theological payoff" of all the argumentation that the writer of Hebrews has been doing up to this point. It is the pinnacle of the joy we have in Jesus as the one who is (if you remember back to our advent series) "Better". But one thing I want to stress here is the writer's use of certain pronouns. Just to pull the pertinent ones out: We (19), us (20), we (21), us, our, our (22), us, our (23), and us (and one another... but that is not a pronoun 24). In other words, the writer of Hebrews makes it certain and clear that the christian faith, and confidence, and walk, is not some highly individual thing. Rather it is one that is done in concert and in companionship with other believers. This is, as we mentioned Sunday, the heart of why the church needs each other. We can see this play out in a few particularly beautiful ways in this section of Scripture.

The first comes in the first verse. We can note that **WE** have confidence. While there is much I could say, I believe most of the thoughts here are summed up in one thought: The same Jesus that saves me, saves, you, saves us all, and therefore we ALL have the same confidence. Paul in Galatians 3:28 would say that "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." It should not be that I have confidence, but you, well, you are left wondering, we have the same position in Jesus Christ. This leaves us with a few thoughts of application. IF you are struggling with having confidence, you can (and should) reach out to your brothers and sisters to be lifted up in the ways that they have confidence. Similarly, if we see a brother and sister struggling it is our responsibility to lift them up... since as we read WE have confidence!

DISCUSS: In what ways can the confidence of others help us? In what ways are we responsible to help others who may lack that same confidence?

The other thought I would like to belabor for just a moment is the beauty of A god who saves... US. It is good and right to sit back and think: how incredible is it that Jesus saved me! I know the depth of my sin, I know my struggles, and yes, it is a huge miracle that God saved me, I am humbled by this realization every day. But WE hold fast, and WE are sprinkled clean, and WE are washed pure. It is not *just* that God saved me, but that God is in the people saving business. It is what he does. What a good and gracious and loving and kind God we serve. He is not individuals, but rather he is making us all, together, into the "people of God"! We are just a part of the beautiful CHORUS of people from every tribe and tongue and nation. And all this is for his glory!

DISCUSS: Why is it important to understand that God is making a people? What thoughts can this change in our hearts? Does it motivate us to action in any particular way?