

Fairfield Baptist Church
Morning Service
22.11.2020
Personal Evangelism

Introduction

Today we continue our studies on the Church.

Sermons on the Church during recent times.

- Gifts, Prayer, The Bible,
- Church and government
- Communion
- Baptism
- Love One Another
- Caring for others
- Church gathering

Yet to have

- Personal Evangelism
- Church and unity

How do you feel when you hear the word 'Evangelism'

How do you feel when you hear the term 'Personal Evangelism'

Three parts to our time together this morning.

1) Reason for our Hope

1 Peter 3:15

In your hearts set apart **Christ as Lord**.

Always be **prepared** to give an **answer**
to everyone who asks you to give
the **reason** for the **hope** that you have.
But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**.

2) Remember the Gospel

- God
- Man
- Christ
- Response

3) Respond in Prayer

God. Use me to reach One.

Bible Readings

1 Peter 3:8-18

Romans 6:20-23

1 Peter 3:8-18

New International Version

Suffering for Doing Good

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For,

“Whoever would love life

and see good days

must keep their tongue from evil

and their lips from deceitful speech.

¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good;

they must seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous

and his ears are attentive to their prayer,

but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”^[a]

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats^[b]; do not be frightened.”^[c] ¹⁵ **But in your hearts set apart Christ**

as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the

hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

Romans 6:19-23

New Living Translation

¹⁹ Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. ²¹ And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. ²² But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness

and result in eternal life. ²³ **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The Reason for our Hope

1 Peter 3:15

The teaching in these general letters complements the doctrine of Paul.

Paul emphasized faith

James stressed conduct,

Peter Hope, John Love, and Jude Purity.

‘In your hearts set apart **Christ as Lord**.
be **prepared** to give an **answer**
to everyone who asks you to give
the **reason** for the **hope** that you have.
But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**.’

Peter in his first letter in chapter three, after giving his godly advice to husbands and wives then went on with guidance on suffering for righteousness sake.

He gave wise instruction on how to grow in grace and live a godly life.

He encouraged them as he encourages us, to live in harmony with our Christian brothers and sisters.

He encourages us to guard our heart and our speech and to turn from evil and do good.

We are to seek peace and to pursue it and we are to be sanctified unto God and live Godly in Christ Jesus - which is the Father's will for all His children.

We are called to be holy even as our Father in heaven is holy and we are instructed to be sanctified unto God in our hearts - by faith with thanksgiving and praise.

But there is one more piece of godly wisdom that Peter pens to all the elect of God who are set apart unto Him.

It is a directive that we would all do well to note - no matter where we live in the world and no matter what our life-circumstances may be.

As God's children, we should be ready to answer anyone who asks us about our faith in Christ and our trust in God.

We should all be equipped to talk of our blessed hope and the grace of God that gives salvation to whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord.

We should all be properly prepared and readily inclined

to a defence of the gospel of grace, in which we stand.

to give an answer for the blessed hope we have in our hearts and

to share the glorious hope that we have in Christ Jesus our Saviour.

We are exhorted to do this in gentleness of spirit - in reverence and in grace

‘In your hearts set apart **Christ as Lord**.
Always be **prepared** to give an **answer**
everyone who asks you to give
the **reason** for the **hope** that you have.
But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**.’

v14 Two things not to do.

- 1 Do not fear
- 2 Do not be frightened

V15 Two things to do.

- 1 Set apart Christ as Lord.
- 2 Ready to give and answer – give a defence
for the hope that we have.

Reserved heart for Christ

An inner commitment to Christ.

Set apart - honour

In your hearts set apart **Christ as Lord**.

Readiness to answer

Always be **prepared** to give an **answer**
to everyone who asks you

Reason for the hope you have

to give the **reason** for the **hope** that you have.

Respect for the people

But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**.

Reserved heart for Christ

“In your hearts set apart **Christ as Lord**”

An inner commitment to Christ.

Set apart - Christ as Lord

Honour

“Only he who can say ‘the Lord is the strength of my life’ can go on to say ‘Of whom shall I be afraid.’

Alexander Maclaren

Lit = ‘make separate from others’

Thinking - where I let my thought life go to when I relax

Speaking	-	vocab I use when I am away from Church when I am away from other Christians
Attitudes	-	How I treat others How I approach ministry What my expectations are
Actions	-	The things I do The places I go to

Set apart Christ as Lord. Christ the Messiah, the Lord the Ruler.

The Gospel is our Hope.

As a result, Christians should always be prepared. Lit = 'ready'

Readiness to answer

"Always be **prepared** to give an **answer**
to everyone who asks you"

The readiness, the being prepared

is not about what I know, my knowledge

is not about my abilities

is not about my experiences

is about me being a Christian

is about me and who I am in Christ.

It is not about my abilities; it is about my availability to God.

Am I available to God, for God to use me?

"If you know you have become a Christian, then you know enough to tell another person how you became a Christian."

Becoming a Christian does not happen by chance, it's a decision you make. You can tell someone else about that decision.

Ill = Uncle Frank - "Can I tell you about the most important decision I every made in my life."

Ill = Ernest Salisbury – always rejoicing.

Ill = Bob Harkness – loud voice always talking about the Lord.

"to everyone who asks you"

The question is, how do I encourage people to ask me

Ill = man at the petrol station

Ready for opportunities to go and make disciples

Ready to give a reason for their Hope in Christ.

Lit = 'defence' which a defendant makes before a judge,

Acts 22:1, 25:16

Such an oral defence should be consistent with ones "set apart" conduct.

"If you stay ready you don't have to get ready"

Ready to give a defence.

Jesus Christs words

Mark 3:11

Stephen

Acts 6:8-10.

Paul

Acts 24:25. – 26:24-29

Reason for the hope you have

"to give the **reason** for the **hope** that you have"

To have a reason for the hope,

You have to know you have a hope

You have to know what the hope is

You have to know what the hope is based on.

This is what the rest of 1 Peter is all about

We can't persuade the world only God can do that.

We must bear witness to Christ.

We must be ready to share the hope we have.

1 Peter is full of what Christ has done to give us hope.

Our hope is totally in Christ,

This is why I suggested that we read 1 Peter before this morning.

Christ in 1 Peter.

The Incarnation	Came	1:20-21
The Death	Died	2:24-25, 3:18
The Resurrection	Rose	1:3, 3:21
The Ascension	Reigns	3:22
The Return	Returns	1:13
Bring us to God		3:18

Therefore	We are always with God	3:18
	God is working all things for our good.	1:7

The Gospel is our Hope.

As a result, Christians should always be prepared. Lit = 'ready'

Respect for the people

"But do this with gentleness and respect"

Lit = respect out of fear.

(V7 = honour – for one's wife.)

"Christians who are not afraid in the face of persecution are able to witness respectfully to their faith in Christ."

Roger Raymer - New Bible Commentary.

Don't expect people you share your hope with to be nice to you.

Quotes

"Outside the will of God there is nothing I want.

And in the will of God there is nothing I fear," - A.W. Tozer

"We have the right to believe what ever we want,

but not everything we believe is right." - Ravi Zacharias

Remember the Gospel

How do you and I easily remember the Gospel.

How do you and I easily remember the Hope we have.

God

Mankind

Christ

Response

Holiness of **God**

Sinfulness of **Mankind**

Work of **Christ**

Need of **Response**

Holiness of God

Wants us to come to know Him.

Is Holy which means He is without sin.

God says sin must be punished.

Sinfulness of Mankind

We are not holy – we are sinful by nature.

Sin is not doing what God wants us to do.

Sin must be paid for or we can not know God.

Work of Christ

Jesus Christ is God's Son – that means He is God

Jesus came to earth to bring us to God

He was born a miraculous birth and lived a sinless life

He died a sacrificial death.

When He died, He paid the penalty for the sin of all mankind.

This is how God can give us eternal life.

Need of Response

You can reject this and not know God = spiritual death.

The way to accept is summed up in three words

Repent – Turn away from sinfulness and turn to God.

Believe – Jesus death paid the penalty for my sin.

Obey – The commands of the Bible and change and follow God.

1 Thess 5:9+10

Respond in Prayer

"God, Use me to reach one"

It's not about ability – it's about availability.

Quote

"We must talk to God about people,

Before we talk to people about God." - D.L.Moody

Closing verses

Philemon 3-7 6

Colossians 4:2-4

Pray for

Boldness

Confidence

Authority

Speak clear and concise words.

My we all have a joyful, faith filled day of many blessings