

THE LAST WORD

VALUES 101- FINAL

Introduction: discussion between 3 pastors:

- Is the church just for the saved, or for both the saved and the not yet saved?
- Two of the three pastors commented that “*new people at my church are already Christians, looking for a church family.*”
 - None of these were people who were prodigals who has walked away from God and were now returning
 - None were from an unbelieving background and were now checking Jesus out.

Romans 15:18-20 *I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done – by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation.*

- Who is it about?
- What do you speak?
- What you do
- Signs and Miracles
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. Who is it about?

- It is all about Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-4 *In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.*

The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

- God the Father speaks through His Son.
 - Who is heir of all things
 - Who created the universe
 - Who represents God the Father

- Who sustains all things
- Who provided purification for the sins of those who believe.
- Who is now at God's right hand
- Who is superior to every other supernatural being, including angels.
- The Gospel is the Good News about Jesus.

2. What you Speak

- Look at how Paul spoke to people:

Romans 15: 5-6 *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ❤*

- Endurance
- Encouragement
- Spirit of Unity
- As one we glorify our God.

Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- Fill you with joy and peace as you trust
- Overflow with hope
- By the power of the Holy Spirit

3. What You Do

Romans 15:1-2 *We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbour for his good, to build him up.*

- Strong help the weak
 - Build each other up.
- In Chapter 16, Paul lists people who helped build the early church:
 - Phoebe – leader of a church
 - Notice the title “servant”
 - 8km south east of Corinth
 - Great help to many people.
 - Champion for the cause
 - Priscilla and Aquilla – husband and wife team.
 - Risked their lives for the church
 - Andronicus and Junias – they have been in prison
 - Converted before Paul
 - Outstanding apostles;

- Ampliatius – a slave
 - was one of the disciples that Jesus sent out.
- Aristobulus – leader of a house church
 - One of the seventy that Jesus sent out
 - Took the Gospel to Britain
- Many of these people were slaves, but Jesus gave them hope and the church gave the support.

4. Signs and Miracles

- Signs were given to support the message of the Gospel
- Paul was converted in 33AD
 - Look at the list of miracles recorded:
- (i) 44AD – after being sent out for the church in Antioch
 - Jewish Sorcerer blinded for a season because of his opposition to the Gospel (Acts 13:9-10)
- (ii) 46AD – at Iconium and Lystra

Acts 14:3, 8-10 *So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there [in Iconium], speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders...In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he has faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.*

- (iii) 50-52AD Philippi

Acts 16:16-18 *Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment, the spirit left her.*

- This led to many other miracles spoken about, but not recorded.

- (iv) 54-56AD "Extraordinary miracles" in Corinth.

Acts 19:11-12 *God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.*

- (v) 58AD – Troas

Acts 20:9-10; 12 *[about midnight in an upstairs room]... seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on, When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “He’s alive!” ...The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.*

- Every miracle points to Jesus
- Every sign shows us what it will be like when evil is done away with
- The two testimonies we have heard this month point to a victorious Saviour.

5. Through the Power of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is the One who empowers us to witness and speak for Jesus.

Romans 16:19-20 *Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

- Wise about what is good
- Innocent about evil
- Purity unmixed with evil
- Obedience is not enough without discernment and integrity.
- The God of peace will fulfill His promise to Eve back in Eden and crush Satan’s head.

Conclusion:

Romans 16:25-27 *Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him – **to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.***