



Spiritual Enrichment 2016

CREEKWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST (Mobile, AL)

Sermon by Ray Reynolds on February 17, 2016

“The Focus of God’s Family”

Introduction: We are considering the three aspects of the church as God's Family: *The Foundation for God's Family* (Jeremy Sigle), *The Fellowship in God's Family* (J.T. Harrison), and now we will consider *The Focus for God's Family*. Our own personal FOCUS could be *Fixed On Christ's Unwavering Standard*. However, in this lesson I want to focus not on things from a congregational viewpoint. What can we do as a church family to stay focused on fulfilling our God-given mission? Let's study together...

Discussion:

Faithfulness

- Following Christ requires only a small amount of faith (**Luke 17:6**).
- Faith is necessary for salvation (**John 3:16, 8:24, Acts 4:12, 16:31, Romans 3:28**).
- Faith puts us in a right relationship with our God (**Romans 5:1, Hebrews 11:6**).
- Faith comes from hearing the Word of God (**Romans 10:17, Acts 15:7**).
- Faith as a church family is vital to our survival (**Revelation 2-3**).
- Faithful living (personal and congregational) will be rewarded (**Revelation 2:10**).
- How can we be more focused on faithfulness?

Outreach

- The prophecies of the church are educational & enlightening (**Daniel 2:31-45, 7:1-28**).
- The prophecies of Isaiah (**Isaiah 2:2-4**), Micah (**Micah 4:1-5**), Joel (**Joel 2:28-32**), and others reveal not only the WHAT, WHY, and HOW... but the WHO.
- Jesus was ridiculed for His outreach methods (**Matthew 11:17, Luke 7:34**).
- Jesus came to seek and save the lost (**Luke 19:10**).
- Jesus wanted to call the sinners, not the righteous (**Matthew 9:13**).
- Jesus knew that the sick needed the physician, not the healthy (**Matthew 9:12**).
- Outreach is hindered by discrimination (**Leviticus 19:15, Deuteronomy 1:17, Malachi 3:5, Acts 10:34, Romans 2:1, 14:1, Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:25, James 2:1-9**).
- Outreach was hindered in the early church (**Acts 6, 10-11, 15**).
- How can we be more focused on outreach?

Change

- Spiritual growth involves change!
- Repentance opens the way for a greater relationship with God (**Luke 3:7-8**).
- Repentance is necessary for salvation (**Luke 13:3-5, Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30**).
- Repentance is also about transformation (**Romans 12:1-2, II Corinthians 5:17**).
- Repentance involves sacrifice (**Matthew 16:24, Luke 9:23**).
- Repentance involves submission (**Matthew 26:36-46, Luke 14:27, I Peter 2:21-25**).
- How can we be more focused on change?

Unity

- Unity is necessary among believers (**Psalm 133:1, I Corinthians 1:10**).
- Unity prevents Christians from living in isolation (**John 17:11**).
- Unity is bearing one another's joys & burdens (**Romans 12:9-16, Galatians 6:1-2**).
- Unity is seeking the same mind & judgment (**I Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 2:5**).
- Unity is understanding the strength in diversity (**Ephesians 4:3-13, Acts 2:46-47, 4:32-35, Galatians 3:26-29**).
- Unity is loving others (**Matthew 22:39, John 13:34-35, Philippians 1:3-11, 2:1-2**).
- Unity leads to unwavering love (**I Corinthians 13:1-13**)?
- How can we be more focused on unity?

Service

- Hard work and Christian service is honored by God (**Genesis 31:38-42**).
- God gives us skills to honor Him (**Exodus 36:1, Matthew 25:14-30**).
- Hard work brings rewards (**Proverbs 12:14**) and supplies our needs (**Proverbs 28:19**).
- Hard work for God is never wasted (**I Corinthians 15:58, Galatians 6:9**).
- Hard work should be done as though we are working for God (**Ephesians 6:5-9**).
- Hard work is a sign of an active faith (**James 2:14-26**).
- Hard work is becoming what God has called us to be... His family!
 - ✓ We are the body of Christ (**Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18, 24**).
 - ✓ We are the bride of Christ (**Ephesians 5:22-32; Revelation 3:12; 19:6-9; 21:2, 9**)
 - ✓ We are the kingdom of Christ (**Colossians 1:13**)
 - ✓ We are the temple of God (**I Corinthians 3:16**)
 - ✓ We are the house of God (**I Timothy 3:15**)
 - ✓ We are the church of the firstborn (**Hebrews 12:23**)
 - ✓ We are the church of the Lord (**Acts 20:28**)
 - ✓ We are the church of God (**I Corinthians 1:2**)
 - ✓ We are the churches of Christ (**Romans 16:16**)
 - ✓ We are the church (**Ephesians 3:10**) who witnesses of Christ (**Luke 24:48, Acts 1:8**).
- How can we be more focused on service?

Conclusion: What do we need the most in our church family? What are the most important things for our congregation and community? What should be our focus as a church family? Are you focused or are you distracted? Let's get on track with God's vision for His church and let's fortify our church families. Remember the words of Jesus (**Matthew 5:43-48**). God wants us to be different from the world. We can only do that if we stay focused as God's family!