

What to Expect

Sunday School Introduction – 10/7/18

A. Our Creed—the aims that will guide our actions

B. Our Focus

A. Our Creed—what East Orlando Baptist Church will stand for

I. Bible Centered

To know the Lord, is to know His word. Many of us, hopefully all, have personally experienced Jesus the moment we got saved. But, that was just the beginning to knowing Him personally in our lives.

Unfortunately many Christians stay at this level for years and remain spiritual infants because they have not fed on the life giving word of God, which alone can make them grow in the knowledge of Him and can cause them to be set free through the truths found in God's Word.

Hosea 4:6: My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge...

Notice this is directed to God's people. God's people have rejected knowledge; it was choice they made.

Lack of knowledge of the word keeps us ignorant of God. This causes us to limit God in every situation of our lives and we end up doing things our way and eventually straying from God's plan for our lives.

In John 14:6 Jesus said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life..."

1 John 2:5: But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

II Prayer Driven

Nothing can be done without prayer, the early church prayed.

Acts 4:31: And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

The reason why many of us are ashamed of the gospel of Christ is because we do pray enough.

The reason why things don't go well in our lives is because we don't pray enough.

The reason why there is little power in our churches is because we don't pray enough. I heard one preacher say, "Little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power."

My desire is to make East Orlando Baptist Church a praying church.

Eventually we'd like to have Wednesday night prayer meetings, Sunday morning prayer meetings, Friday night and Saturday night prayer meetings. A time where you can come and pray regardless of your schedule.

If God is going to do something great for us, He'll only do that through prayer.

I have often heard, "I want to do something great for God." But it's not that way folks; there is nothing you are going to do that's going to impress God.

But God can impress you! God can show Himself strong on your behalf if you let Him.

Luke 17:10: So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

III Pursuing Holiness

God cannot fellowship with darkness. You cannot walk with God while holding the devil's hand. Holiness is a command.

Positionally, in Christ, we are holy—sinless. But our flesh sins, and this is what we have keep holy.

We are holy (positionally):

1 Corinthians 6:11: And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are **sanctified** (*made holy*), but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Peter 2:5: Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

When God sees you, He sees Christ. And you have been clothed with the holiness of Christ.

We are to live holy lives:

1 Peter 1:15: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

1 Peter 1:16: Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

IV Evangelistically Minded

The mission of the church is the great commission. We are to give the gospel in our neighborhood, in our city, in our state, in our country, and around the world.

“Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21).

Christ commanded His church to be a witness for Him “...in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth...” (Acts 1:8). We will either be an Acts 1:8 church or an Acts 8:1 church.

We are to support missions, and support starting other like-minded churches.

The Bible says that for people to be saved they must hear the gospel, and they cannot hear the gospel unless someone is sent to them to preach the gospel (Romans 10:13-17).

When Paul went to a town he usually went to the synagogue, to the town square, and door to door.

Acts 20:20: And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

Acts 20:21: Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

This was not visiting some friend’s house or having house church, but Paul taught to Jews and to the Greeks, these were unsaved people.

We believe evangelism is not only the responsibility of the church and missionaries but of every individual believer, and that all believers should be ready to witness for Christ and share their faith.

1 Peter 3:15: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15).

We must witness if we are to grow as a church.

V Fellowship Focused

Acts 2:42: And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 John 1:3: That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

When we hang together as Christians we realize that we are not alone, that we are part of a bigger family, the family of God.

True Christian fellowship reinforces our common beliefs, our purpose, and our goals. It makes us accountable to each other, and when you invite people over for fellowship it gives the ladies a chance to clean the house. God created company so the house could get cleaned.

B. Our Focus-what are we going to emphasize.

Teaching the Bible and Operating as a true New Testament Church.

I Teaching the Bible

As we have sated already, to know the Lord is to know the word.

Our Sunday School lessons will revolve around the Bible. We are going to through the Bible, book by book. We won't spend years on a book, but several months to several weeks depending on the size of the book. For example, we may spend three months in Genesis, but one lesson on Philemon; we may spend two months in Exodus, but only two lessons in Titus. You get the picture.

We will have a few introductory lessons. Lesson 1 will be how to teach the Bible, and Lesson 2 will be a general overview of the Bible and in Lesson 3 we will begin in the book of Genesis.

We will begin a Bible Odyssey. Questions will always be welcomed. If we don't have an answer we will try and get you one.

We will read the Bible, we will study it, we meditate on it, we memorize it, and we will discuss among ourselves.

Federal agents don't learn to spot counterfeit money by studying the counterfeits. They study genuine bills until they master the look of the real thing. Then when they see the bogus money they recognize it.

Likewise if you know your Bible you will insulate yourself from false doctrines, teachings and heresies.

1 Timothy 4:1: Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

This is happening around us in churches all across America. We have the National Council of Churches, we have the ecumenical movement, we have the emergent church, etc.

2 Timothy 2:15: Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

We will be teaching the Bible and in so doing we will be perfecting the saints for the work of the ministry.

There was a report about a preacher in Mobile, AL – this is most likely a joke – he wanted to be ordained a minister, so the brethren got together, and talked with him and said, “Brother Jones, do you believe the Bible?”

And he said, “I believe the Bible from cover to cover.”

And they said, “Well, could you tell us your favorite Bible story?”

And he said, “Of course, I wouldn’t mind telling you.”

“There was certain man who had two sons, and the younger one said, ‘I want to go down to Jericho.’ And so he went to Jericho and fell among the leaves, and they smothered him, but God sent a great big wind down there and blew them all away and sent a lot of rain, and it rained for forty days and forty nights.

“And he went into a cave where the ravens brought him mana in the morning and quail in the afternoon. And when he came out, there was a great river, so great that no man could cross it, so he passed by on the other side.

“And as he came down to Jericho there he saw Jezebel sitting up there in a Sycamore tree and he said, ‘Hey fellas, throw that ole gal down.’ And they cast her down and choked her down again, and choked her till seventy times seven and what remained was baskets full of men, women, and children.

“And the question I want to ask you gentlemen in the presbyter is this: ‘Whose wife is she going to be in the Day of Judgment?’”

The reason why someone of you may not be laughing is because you do not know if this Bible story is true or not.

Now I hope no one can say Amen!

II A New Testament run church

Our Commitment is to truly form a New Testament Church. It will not be a one man show. The bible doesn't teach one man having to do all the work and making all the decisions; a church should have a plurality of elders with one presiding elder or overseer.

Christ sent them out by twos, they laid hands on Saul and Barnabas, ordain elders in every church...

Acts 13:2: As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Much of our labor as Christians must be a coordinated effort. If you study the life of Paul and his missionary journeys, he was never a lone rider; he was surrounded mostly by competent coworkers, I say mostly because of Demas and others like him.

We can think of Barnabas, Mark, Timothy, Silas, Luke, Titus, Aquila, Priscilla, Zenas, Apollos, and countless others. It was a whole team.

The deacons manage the physical affairs of the church, and the bishops the spiritual. The deacons do not run the pastor; they serve to help the

pastor. The apostles worked together in Jerusalem, with James the brother of John was obviously the leader.

Let's look at an example of how a NT church should operate:

Acts 6:1: And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

A problem arose in the early church. The apostles recognized it and delegated this responsibility.

Acts 6:2: Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Acts 6:3: Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Acts 6:4: But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

This is why there needs to be many hands in the work of the ministry. If the pastor is too busy taking care of things that others can do, it takes away from his time of prayer, reading and studying the Bible.

Acts 6:5: And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Acts 6:6: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

The church selected capable men to handle this situation, when these men were approved by the apostles they went about and took care of business. So when the problem was solved it pleased God and He blessed. The result:

Acts 6:7: And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

When you follow God's order, He will bless.