

Family Values:

The Mission/Vision Statement of Calvary Bible Church

Assorted Scriptures

September 13, 2020

Opening Illustration: Showing someone around this church building. Last week, I got to do something that I have never done before. I got to show someone around in this building while actually knowing where things were! You have no idea what a momentous step that is for me! As some of you may remember, I was getting lost in this building quite regularly at first. To actually know where most of the major places in this building are is a great triumph for me!

Point: When we are disoriented, we are of little help to those who are also lost [Say this again!]. We need to know what Calvary Bible Church is if we are to be of any help to those who are hoping to prosper under her ministry. We need to know what we are all about if we have any hope of sharing our convictions with the community and with the world.

I. Introduction/Review

- A. What will be our approach?
 - 1. Last week:
 - a. We focused more on the big picture.
 - b. We focused on the doctrinal aspects of our family values.
 - i. What we believe about the sacrificial death of Jesus.
 - ii. What we believe about the Bible.
 - 2. This week:
 - a. We will focus more on the specifics.
 - b. We will focus more on the practical aspects of our family values.
- B. What is our motto? To Know Him and make Him known.
 - 1. **Calvary**—*We make the Cross central in all we do.*
 - 2. **Bible**—*We celebrate the Bible, diligently studying and applying it to everyday life.*
 - 3. **Church**—*This will be our focus this morning.*

II. What are the focal points? *By the grace of God, Calvary Bible Church aspires to be a people who:*

- A. **Are a united body of believers in which each person is growing in Christlikeness together. [1 Cor 3]**
 - 1. The Statement says:
 - a. Unity among of a local body of believers is vital to spiritual growth (e.g. Eph 4, John 17:20-23, Phil 1:27).
 - i. **John 17:2-23** "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.
 - ii. **Philippians 1:27** Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
 - b. The church is not free from problems.
 - i. If you find a perfect church, don't go there!
 - ii. People aren't perfect, and they won't be until they are made perfect in Heaven.
 - c. This is why the Bible contains so much teaching on relationships.
 - d. We are called to grow in Christ, not only individually, but as a congregation.
 - 2. Conclusions:

- a. Therefore, we desire to be a body of believers where each person is committed to loving one another in the fullest sense of that term.
 - i. Loving one another is from God.
 - **1 John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
 - ii. Loving one another fulfills the law.
 - **Romans 13:8** Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.
 - iii. Loving one another is the natural outworking of a true relationship with God.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:9** Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

Point: It seems like, right now, there are a hundred different things to divide over. There are so many differences of opinion and these differences are sometimes held and communicated in really ugly ways. The challenge for Calvary Bible Church is not really whether or not we will continue to exist, as much as it is whether or not we get through this time in our country's history with our love for one another intact.

B. Are concerned for the spiritual and physical welfare of our neighbors. [Luke 10:25-37]

ILL: "Am I allowed to be nice to them?" A lady in a former church asked to meet with me with this very question on her heart. You see, some of the people she worked with were unbelievers. Not only that, but they lived a lifestyle that the Bible calls sinful. She had always been taught that they are the enemy. So, is she allowed to be nice to them? Remember, beloved: The Devil is the enemy, unbelievers are the mission field! It's never wrong to do the right thing.

1. Everyone is our neighbor, no matter who/where they are.
 - a. When Jesus was asked "Who is my neighbor?", His answer was a stranger from another country who met someone's needs (Luke 10:25-37).
2. God continually demonstrates His concern for all people as His image bearers. (Matthew 5:44-45)
 - a. God lets people who hate Him see the sunrise/sunset.
 - b. God lets people who hate Him have children.
 - c. God lets people who hate Him breathe.
 - d. So how should you treat people who hate you?

Point: Why don't we just see to peoples' spiritual needs and leave their physical needs to somebody else? After all, does it really matter if we feed people if they end up going to Hell? Answer: There is a point to this, the spiritual need of people to be saved does greatly outweigh their physical needs. On the other hand, though, we are commanded to pay attention to both. Also, when we show concern for the physical welfare of people, we get to show them that God loves them.

3. Jesus gave us the command to 'go and make disciples' locally and globally (Mat 28:19).
 - a. We are commissioned to reach people who do not know Christ and make Christ known to them.
 - i. **Matthew 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit..."
4. Conclusion:
 - a. Therefore, we want to be constantly looking for opportunities to serve our neighbors (Rom. 10:15).
 - i. We want to help feed the hungry.
 - ii. We want to help free the oppressed and the victimized.
 - iii. We want (ultimately) to reach the marginalized.
 - iv. SLT
 - b. Likewise, we want to partner with our missionary family to accomplish this around the world.
 - i. MLT
 - ii. WAC

C. Adopt a lifestyle of worship as a grateful response to all God is and does in our lives.

Point: What do we mean by “lifestyle” of worship? We mean that we want our worship to be the tone of our lives, coming through in everything that we do. We want to be “living sacrifices” **Romans 12:1** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

1. The Statement says:

- a. Human language falls short in every description of the glory of God.
 - i. Now, this is what makes worship so great! In worship, we are celebrating the praiseworthiness of God, something that we will ultimately fail to properly describe!
- b. Nobody can see Him and live (Exodus 33:20).
 - i. **Exodus 33:20** But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"
 - ii. **John 1:18** No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.
- c. Even so, because of the finished work of Jesus Christ, He bids us to draw near to Him (James 4:8) and one day we will be like Him, see Him as He is (1 John 3:2, 1 Cor 13:12) and enjoy His presence forever!
 - i. **James 4:8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
 - ii. **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.
 - iii. **1 Corinthians 13:12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

Point: We believe that worship is something God wants from us...seeks in us...deserves in us. We believe that whatever we do must be done toward the celebration of His greatness.

ILL: “To the Praise of His glory”—Why do I end almost every prayer this way? Reason #1—Ephesians 1:12-14 Reason #1—I don’t just want everything to be to His glory (as obviously important as that is), but to the PRAISE of His glory. That is to say, I want my life, my labors, my struggles, my successes, my everything...to lead myself and everyone around me to worship God to PRAISE God for His glory!!

2. Conclusion:

- a. Therefore, we want our lives to flow from a heart that worships Him alone in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
- b. We want to be continually awestruck by His greatness and adore Him.
- c. We want to honor and glorify Him in sincere worship not only when we gather together but also in our daily lives and activities (Col 3:17).

III. A Concluding Exhortation:

A. Oh, beloved Calvary Bible Church

1. Know Him!

- a. Walk closely with Him in fellowship.
- b. Dive deeply into His truth with an eye towards how you may embody its truths.
- c. Draw constantly from the Holy Spirit for His power and preservation.

2. Make Him Known!

- a. Put your arm around your brother in Christ and walk together.
- b. Open your arms to those around the world who are suffering and lost.
- c. Raise your hands to the God of the universe in a lifestyle of praise.

To the Praise of His Glory,
Amen