

Current Sermon Series... The Invitation

- Ultimately, the goal of this series has been to invite you into the fullness of life that Christ offers us and to walk in faithful obedience and expectancy
 - We want you to encounter and know the living Christ
 - We want you to live a Spirit-filled life
 - We want you to have vibrant and growing relationship with Jesus
 - We want you to be intentionally participating in God's mission for his people to make disciples of all nations

 Paul's desire to know God was inspiring (Philippians 3:7-11) Philippians 3:7-11... ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

- Paul's desire to know God was inspiring (Philippians 3:7-11)
- Discovering is about "inflow"
 - Hunger and thirst for God and his presence

A.W. Tozer

So the life of man upon the earth is a life away from the Presence, wrenched loose from that "blissful center" which is our right and proper dwelling place, our first estate that we kept not, the loss of which is the cause of our unceasing restlessness.

---- The Pursuit of God

- Paul's desire to know God was inspiring (Philippians 3:7-11)
- Discovering is about "inflow"
 - Hunger and thirst for God and his presence
 - Bible, church, preaching and teaching, books and resources that are meant to draw you closer to God and help you grow
 - Be careful about what type of "inflow" you allow – there's some crazy and misleading teachers and philosophies out there
- Symptoms of 1 dimensional Christians

Demonstrate the Life of Jesus

 God is very clear that he expects us to align our practice with our discovery (Matt 7:24-27; Rom 2:13; Jam 1:22-23)

To Become 3 Dimensional Disciples

Matthew 7:24-27... 24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Demonstrate the Life of Jesus

- Align practice with discovery (Matt 7:24-27; Rom 2:13; Jam 1:22-23; 1 John 2:4-6)
- Expectation of obedience begins with filling of the Holy Spirit
- Living in community with other believers (fulfilling "one another" commands)
- Becoming a servant
- Symptoms of 2 dimensional Christians

Demonstrate the Life of Jesus

Duplicate Your Faith

- Maturity linked to reproduction
- God loved the world so much that he gave his Son to save it (John 3:16-17)
- God desires that none perish (2 Pet 3:9)
- God is very clear about his mission for his people (Matt 28)
- Bottom line: people need Jesus, and you have what they need

An Invitation to Join Us

Colossians 1:24-29... Our goal

Col 1:24-29... ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

An Invitation to Join Us

- Colossians 1:24-29... Our goal
- Intentionally pursuing Christ and becoming "3 Dimensional" in your faith is how we are trying to achieve what Paul desired
- Limited Time in Cold Lake is not a good excuse to derail your discipleship
- Living life to the full (John 10:10) begins with giving your life completely to Jesus

HIMSELF by A. B. Simpson

Once it was the blessing, Now it is the Lord; Once it was the feeling, Now it is His Word. Once His gifts I wanted, Now the Giver own; Once I sought for healing, Now Himself alone.

Once 'twas painful trying, Now 'tis perfect trust; Once a half salvation, Now the uttermost. Once 'twas ceaseless holding, Now He holds me fast; Once 'twas constant drifting, Now my anchor's cast.

Once 'twas busy planning, Now 'tis trustful prayer; Once 'twas anxious caring, Now He has the care. Once 'twas what I wanted, Now what Jesus says; Once 'twas constant asking, Now 'tis ceaseless praise.

HIMSELF by A. B. Simpson

Once it was my working, His it hence shall be; Once I tried to use Him, Now He uses me. Once the power I wanted, Now the Mighty One; Once for self I labored, Now for Him alone.

Once I hoped in Jesus, Now I know He's mine; Once my lamps were dying, Now they brightly shine. Once for death I waited, Now His coming hail; And my hopes are anchored, Safe within the vail.