

Sermon Series Title: "The Church of God"

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We're going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

"We are in our "The Church of God" sermon series, and we see that we are defined not by who we are but whose we are as the Church."

Call: Isaiah 26:13

Text: Matthew 16:21-28

Title: "The Pathway of the Church"

Next Week's Call: Luke 1:46-48a

Next Week's Text: Ephesians 4:1-7

Next Week's Title: "The Unity of the Church"

Future Calls: Luke 1:46-48a, 48b-49, 50, 51-52, 53, 54-55, 68-69, 70-73, 74-75, 78-79; Luke 2:13-14, 29-32; Revelation 5:6-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Revelation 15:3, 4; Revelation 21:1-4, 5-7, 22-23

Future Titles: "The Diversity of the Church" (Romans 12:1-8), "The Sufficiency of the Church" (Ephesians 4:11-16), "The Identity of the Church" (Matthew 5:13-16), "The Humility of the Church" (1 John 1:5-10), "The Draw of the Church" (2 Corinthians 2:14-17), "The Distinction of the Church" (1 Peter 2:11-12), "The Instrumentality of the Church" (1 Peter 2:9-10), "Church as Building" (1 Peter 2:6-8), "Church as City" (Ephesians 2:19-22), "Church as Body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-31), "Church as Family" (John 1:12-13), "Church as Bride" (Ephesians 5:22-33), "The Eternality of the Church" (Revelation 21:1-7)

Fallen Condition Focus: We have a wrong view of our Messiah and we don't take up our cross to follow Him.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ is our crucified Savior, and we are able to bear our cross for Him.

Central Truth: We can take up our cross for Christ, because Christ has first taken up His cross for our sins.

Summary: Right after Jesus' commendation for Peter's confession in the previous passage, we see Peter rebuking Jesus for foretelling His suffering and resurrection. Jesus then calls Peter, Satan, for setting his mind on the things of man. Afterwards, Jesus then calls his followers to deny themselves and take up their cross. Do we have the right gospel, centered on a crucified and risen Savior, or do we have the mind of Satan? Have we taken up our cross to follow Jesus?

Reflective Questions:

1. Why is Jesus' rebuke of Peter so significant for us?
2. What are some lessons for us as we meditate on our call to take up our cross?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook- From power to pathway; upside-down kingdom; Kingdom economy is not take more to gain more; but to humble yourself/give to gain
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. The Cross for Jesus (vv. 21-23)

- A. From that time- Peter's confession; Jesus BEGAN to show- it's a process
- B. Go to Jerusalem- end of Galilean ministry
- C. Suffer many things/be killed/be raised
 1. Many things- intense suffering- pointing to the humiliation of the cross
 2. From the elders, chief priests, and scribes- Jewish leaders
- D. Peter rebukes Jesus.
 1. High off of Jesus' praise for his confession
 2. He thinks he is doing something good and right.
 3. His expectation of the Messiah is flawed. The political Messiah that Israel expected would have encountered some opposition, but he would squash it. He wouldn't suffer many things.
 4. Peter's expectation was more than political, but it still didn't include suffering and death.
 5. We rebuke Jesus in our sin; telling Jesus what to do; demanding He be a certain way or provide for us in the way we want.
 1. I have friends in Philly who have tried to punish God with their disobedience because God didn't answer their prayers... or they suffered too much.

E. Get behind me Satan.

1. Get behind me- know your place
2. Peter is called Satan because his mind is on the things of man.
3. Why Satan?
 1. Through Satan's temptations, we see him trying to get Jesus to avoid suffering, avoid the cross, sin against God, etc. This includes the thief on the cross.
 2. Peter is in line with Satan with such thinking.
4. Whenever we compromise the gospel and believe in/proclaim a cross-less Christ/religion, we are in line with Satan.
 1. Sermons- no Christ (Jewish sermon?); no gospel (Christ but no cross, legalism, prosperity gospel, etc.)

F. Why is that cross so important?

1. Jesus doesn't just say that he will go in v. 21. He says that He MUST go. It is necessary for Him to go for our salvation.
2. This is the will of the Father (pactum salutis) from eternity past for God's glory and the redemption of His people.

III. The Cross for Us (vv. 24-28)

A. After speaking of His cross, Jesus speaks about the cross of his followers.

1. Anyone- universal call
2. Deny himself- our selfishness, pride, glory, pursuit of pleasure, rights, comfort, etc.
 1. Westminster Seminary students in Cambodia
 2. We deny ourselves to obtain something- be rich, have possessions, do what's best for our family, look young, next promotion, etc. Can we deny ourselves for a greater treasure, refuge, reward?
 - a. Big company- lunch with execs with the best food; but no one could eat it because of health issues; sacrificed health to obtain position, possession, power
 3. We are not our own, we were bought with a price.
3. Take up the cross- easy phrase today v. shock to the disciples back then; humiliating execution
 1. You wouldn't want your worst enemy to be crucified.
 2. But Jesus is saying that that is for His followers.
4. The followers of Christ should expect suffering.
 1. Cross- forgiveness, patience, love, generosity, faithfulness, moral

B. Jesus gives reasons for taking up the cross.

1. No use gaining the whole world and then losing your soul
 1. Eating healthy- suffer a little now to enjoy life later or will enjoy life a little now to suffer much worse later
 2. Jesus sees all and He will repay all.
 3. Not taste death until they see the kingdom- pointing to the resurrection and the Last Day
 1. We take up His cross today so that we will receive His crown on that day.
- C. As Jesus has taken up His cross for our redemption, we take up our cross for His glory.
1. Jesus had every right to avoid the cross. He could have been comfortable and been in glory in heaven.
 2. But He went. He obeyed. To pursue us. To purchase us. To save us. And now we take up our cross to follow Him... not for our salvation but for His glory.
 1. He took off His crown to bear our cross, so that we may take up our cross to wear His crown one day.