



Sermon Series Notes

"NY's Communion Weekend 2017 Message" (Selected Scriptures)

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I had planned on sharing some vision regarding future potential projects, as well as update you on the new Mudman Food Truck Ministry, but we are still working through some legal and practical matters with the Calvary Chapel board. So I'll have to put those things off 'til another time. But what I do have to share is exciting, and I am looking forward to what the Lord has planned for us this year and beyond as a church fellowship.

Before my message, let's look back at some of the tremendous things the Lord did in 2016 in and through Calvary Chapel Saint Petersburg.

Look back video

Videos like that are always so polished and put together well. But if you only knew some of the things we go through to get them "just right," I think you would laugh.

Bloopers video

Let me share some things you should be aware of in 2017

- January 22 leadership prayer summit; If there was ever a time we needed to pray together as leaders, it is now.
- Wednesday pm services – combine prayer square with communion, desire for as many leaders to be at this service as possible; These will become regular "afterglows."
- Beginning Wednesday, January 11 & through the first part of May - "Get To Know Your Pastors" series. I have asked them to summarize their testimony (10 minutes), how they came to CCSP & became staff pastors, and a bit about what their responsibilities are (10 minutes), then share a message from the Word they believe encouraging and challenging for the church (20-25 minutes).
- Men's Ministries
 - Annual conference (coming up next month, Feb.24-25)
 - Annual CCSP retreat (in the fall)

- Variety of men's small groups focused on discipleship
- Marriage ministry
 - Annual conference – one already planned this fall, Sept.22-23
 - Annual retreat; tried to book something this April in Orlando but was too expensive.

A PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Delight yourself in the Lord (Psalm 37:4)

Most important thing you can do as a Christian is develop & maintain a personal, devotional time with the Lord. I'd like to teach on that subject, but that's not how the Lord has led me. Offer "Spending Time with God."

A PASTORAL EXHORTATION

Build up and strengthen the church in 2017

Ephesians 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Love one another as Christ loved us.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that you are my disciples...

One of the greatest challenges for any church is the continuation of love for one another. Unity & love has been one the greatest challenges for God's people throughout the Bible. Israel was divided as a nation over the foolish actions of Solomon's son Rehoboam. There was regularly friction between the apostles of Jesus. And you need only look at the book of Acts to see the potential for division. Acts 6 was potential division as a result of the numerical growth of the church. Acts 15 records a heated debate among the church leadership concerning doctrinal issues. And at the end of Acts 15, the beloved missionary team of Paul and Barnabas split over the question of whether or not to allow John Mark to join them on their next missionary journey. In the church of Philippi, two women who had once worked side by side in assisting the apostle Paul were now no longer working together, and the impression you get is that they were not even talking to one another.

See Eph.4:1-6; Col.3:13; II Cor.2:5-11; Heb.12:15.

Prov.17:1 Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife. Love is the most important thing.

I Cor.13:1-13

The church universal is identified in the Bible by local fellowships where there are ordained and appointed leaders (Heb.13:17).

The wisest investment any of us can make in 2017 is the church of Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God on earth.

I am so thankful for this church and the impact it has had on our community, and the world. I never would have imagined all that God had planned.

Give (\$)

- Give to the Lord, through the church
- This is the least a local church member can do; Parable of the talents, wicked servant.
- Examples of investments made in 2016
 - Exceeding a budget of over \$4,000,000
 - Everything this church did for the kingdom and glory of God in 2016, we get reward for if we invested in it.
 - Special Needs \$89,308.33
 - Missions Special \$94,665.33
 - Tibet Missions Project \$71,692.64
 - Building Projects \$94,665.33
 - BTW, that's how we can do things like the lobby ministry area renovation.
Thank you!
 - Sports Field \$37,298.11
 - Sports Field has its own fund due to the size of the project and fund raisers specifically for it.
 - Mortgage Payoff \$134,453.33
 - TOTAL \$522,083.07

Get involved

- Find out what God has prepared for you to do (Eph.2:10).
- Get in fellowship (Acts 2:42); Life Groups
- Find a place to serve (Gal.5:13)

A CONCLUDING CHALLENGE

- Don't live in the past (Phil.3:13-14)
 - Eccl.7:10 Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?"
 - People in the Bible who made some pretty bad mistakes: Moses, Abraham, David, Peter, all the apostles (deserted Jesus, fought among themselves, spiritually "dull-minded").

- Step into 2017 by faith (James 2:17)
 - Don't let Goliath keep you from God's will.
 - Spies into the Promised Land, all agreed that it was a land flowing with milk and honey, but they were not willing to face the giants in order to possess the blessings God had for them.
 - God placed within me a desire to teach the Bible, but I was scared to death to speak publicly.
 - Prov.29:25 The fear of man will prove to be a snare.
 - The generation that made it into the Land of Promise
 - Required fresh reverence & consecration (keep a distance from the ark, Joshua 3:2-5).
 - Priests had to get their feet wet (Joshua 3:13)
 - We are all NT priests (I Peter 2:9)
 - God cannot work until you step in by faith
 - Must step in despite the current and conditions (Joshua 3:15a). Don't make the excuse of waiting until things "settle down."
 - Personal holiness had to be maintained
 - Foolish Achan (Joshua 7)
 - He failed in honoring the Lord with the firstfruits
 - He allowed hidden sin to destroy him.
 - Prov.28:13 He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
 - And where do we find mercy? At the cross.

CONCLUSION

Wednesday morning part of my devotional reading was in the book I mentioned last weekend, "On Being A Servant of God," by Warren Wiersbe. One statement I highlighted was this: "Most of the people you meet day after day are either wasting their lives or merely spending their lives, but God's servants have the privilege of investing their lives in what is eternal" (p.102).

INVITATION

Let go of that attitude, forgive as the Lord has forgiven you, humble yourself; consecrate yourself; begin honoring the Lord with the firstfruits (the tithe); get plugged in, fellowship, serving; men – sign up for the men's conference! (OT - 3 times a year all men to appear before the Lord). Repent of sin, stop keeping it hidden. Come clean, and find mercy – at the cross.