5/16/21

Sermon – Protecting an Investment
Scripture – 2 Cor 5:11-18, Luke 15:3-7
Main Message – Why do we limit so many things in our life?

AM 39
FB 7

If I choose NOT to wear a seatbelt, who am I ultimately hurting? Is it only Me? Before any state had a mandatory seatbelt law, if you were in the military driving around on base you were required to wear them while on the military installation. It was not enforceable off the military installation, but they strongly encouraged us to do so. If I can only hurt myself by not wearing a seatbelt, then why was it required?

The military trained, fed, and literally clothed you and moved you to the location where you were needed. Now they OWN you to some degree. You have become government issue, also known as G.I. Many join the military, but some never really get to the place that their rights have been supplanted by the needs of the military system. You are no longer a free civilian Those that don't fully embrace the military were only looking for a job and not the life and death potential that exists. You were held to a much higher standard and the law was much stricter for military than for the civilian counterparts living around you in the community. THE UCMJ spelled out in great detail what the new laws are like. You must dress like they say, groom yourself like they say, and stand just like they say even sometimes when off duty. It's a demanding lifestyle and sometimes complicated. Many leave the military after their first few years because they just cannot fully adapt.

There are many parallels with the Christian faith as well. Many can see the good purpose and give it a go, but after a few years, or after a few failures, they fall away. They never fully embraced the fullness of what it means to be a Christian. They resisted the changes that come with it and change it ***must*** because for those who accept it, they are a new creation!

Read 2 Cor 5

Today, I want to explain a role that I have as a Pastor that you may not have considered. I am here to help protect this eternal investment that Jesus has made in you by His Sacrifice on the cross. I'm a laborer for Christ acting like a spiritual seatbelt. Christ is a 360 degree airbag protection system just so you know. You see, I don't want to lose anyone to the world which is full of seductive influences, or because you may no longer see any value in being a Christian. That is why I continually encourage you to:

- PRAY — 1 Thes 5:17
- Study God's Word — 2 Tim 2:15
- WALK in the SPIRIT — Galatians 5:16
- Rejoice Always — 1 Thes 5:16

Some who were in the military couldn't really fully adapt and to be honest, that's OK. However as Pastor, I am burdened with this loving responsibility to not loose anyone back to the world.

Read Luke 15

So, if any of you sheep go wandering off, I am going to inquire about you. If you go off to another spirit filled church, because it fits you better, then I'll miss you but I won't drag you back. Sometimes it's healthy to mature in another flock and bring new blood into it. But my primary desire and my responsibility is to keep you in a place of total commitment, otherwise, the world may suck you back as we have seen far to often.