

1/26/25

Sermon – Never Give up Hope (Part 1)

Scripture – 2 Thes 2:9-12, 1st Co 1:18-31,

Main Message – Reminding us of the plight of being a Christian and next week the mission.

Imagine for a moment knowing the truth about something, but not being able to make others understand it. Think of the typical emotions one feels in such a situation. All of a sudden, absolute truth has become a variable now. A new phrase is “Be your own truth,” which in older times one called, Be true to yourself. The older one means to “not deceive yourself. The new one is to reshape reality according to your own thoughts. Today, people are making their own truth out of absurdity. Stranger still, people are more than happy to believe the lie and propagate it like it is “new knowledge.” God’s Holy Laws, creation, and the various witness of your eyes are under assault. You may know beyond a shadow of a doubt that something is true, but everyone believes the exact opposite. Sounds nuts, doesn’t it? Well, there is a reason for it. There are people who are so ANTI-GOD that they weave it into whatever mission they have going on. They destroy hope, condemn faith, and ridicule those who do believe in God as being ignorant and stupid. They debate with twisted logic, undermine wholesome laws that make society work, and are dedicated to convincing others that the path to hell is the best one.

This challenge has always been present, yet I don’t believe with the same irrational intensity. *Thank you for being here.* We are on the path of truth. Do not doubt that there is a God. I am committed to giving your faith substance based on a foundation that Almighty God has set out before us. But don’t think for a moment that you won’t be belittled for that faith – openly or in secret. The attacks from the misguided and those who are “wise in their own mind” are increasing in frequency and intensity. If this attack is at your doorstep - Congratulations. This is a good sign for you, though it may not *feel* like it. **What might those signs be? (nervous about speaking the truth) Read 2 Thes 2:9-12.**

God is the embodiment of righteousness. All will reap what they sow. *Always.* Only God’s mercy saves you from the missteps we all make in life. God Knows our hearts. Those who aspire to know God and His Holy Ways are perfected, sometimes with tribulations and discipline. Say Thanks. Those who have no interest in God, and by their evil practice deception will get to the point that they will actually BELIEVE the lies. Ultimately they will be condemned by them. You may wonder how it is that people can become so skewed in their thinking... be so “Stupid” is because they are on the path to condemnation. Instead of getting angry with them, you should feel a great pity toward them, because they are not on the path that you are on. They have rejoiced in evil. Do you understand what evil is? Anything that is not of God. Those who believe the lie will continue to sow it, and ultimately, they will reap it. To reinforce Jesus’ teaching in **Luke 12**, hear what he said. Read the Parable of the Sower and the seed on the path.

Matthew

We should pray for these people, because you, nor I can possibly know a person’s heart and we must live with the HOPE that each we come into contact with can be saved, even those we cannot comprehend as ever knowing the truth. We must tell them the Gospel, pray for them, and be patient with them. After all, God has been patient with each of us.

Read 1 Cor 18-31. Sadly, the wisdom of the world seduces those who have been deceived. So, I am guessing that some of you are saying to yourselves in some fashion, “now what.” If God has sent them a strong delusion, how can I affect any change? Is it hopeless? Is there no chance.

Come back next week to see why we are those that continue to have hope! Because the title of this message is “Never Give Up Hope – Part 1”

Don’t you just love a cliff hanger?