

"The Long and the Short of It" (It's Time to Agree with God) Week 3

Sermon date 5/14/2017

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) What did you learn about the *love* of God from last week?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

The Goal

Last week we examined a few Scriptures about who God says I am and who God says He is. (If you did not finish last week's study, I would encourage you to do a thorough review.) This week we will be learning more about who we are in Christ and will be making some commitments. The commitments are: I will Start (by faith), I will Stop, I will Stay, I will Go. All of these commitments will be based on the foundation of who God says I am and who He is.

DIGGING DEEPER

Last week we looked at Romans 12:2 (NIV)

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

With mind transformation as the desire as we seek to deepen our connection with who God says we are and who God says He is, read the following passage.

Hebrews 10:19-25 (ESV)

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers,^[c] since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- 4) According to these verses, why should we have confidence, and what do we do if we don't feel confident?

We should approach the throne of Grace.

- 5) Many times when we struggle with sin we feel like these promises are void and we cannot do what these verses are instructing us to do. Have you ever felt like you could not approach God in times of trouble or because you were too sinful? If so, will you share your experience with the group?

TAKING IT HOME

- 6) What do I need to start (by faith)?

Trusting Jesus's work on the cross. My sin is paid for. He loves me just as I am and wants me to draw close to him. Chair Time: I need to sit with Him and read His word. I need to pray and cast all my cares on Him.

- 7) Is there something God has been leading you to start doing that you have resisted? If so, will you share it with the group?
- 8) What (by faith) do you need to stop? (Are you resisting God? Is there a habit you need to get help with? Are you blaming God for your decisions?)

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

- 9) What is the verse asking us to do, and why?

This is the idea of staying the course. To keep doing good because in due time we will reap a blessing.

- 10) Are there areas in your life you need to stay the course? Such as commitments you have already made but have stumbled in keeping them? Looking back at the passage from Hebrews, what could you do with these areas?

Just a few examples of areas that we need to stay the course in are: purity in singleness, faithfulness in marriage, forgiveness, trusting God with disappointments, and finances. What other areas can your group come up with?

Mark 16:15 (NLT) says

¹⁵ And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

- 11) The last idea is about "Go". Where do I need to go, by faith, in following Christ? Is there something God is calling you to do that you need to respond to Him, by faith, and go?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

This week pray and meditate on the following ideas:

What do you need to Start?

What do you need to Stop?

Where do you need to Stay the course?

Where do you need to Go?