



Sunday, September 20th, 2020

Sermon Series: "Looking Ahead"

Sermon Connection Outline and Notes: "Don't Look Back!"

Proverbs 4:18 (KJV) - "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

- **Read Jeremiah 7:23 - 24 (KJV)** This has always been the problem - people get hardheaded and hard hearted.
- **Read Hebrews 3:12 - 13 (NKJV)**
- The Israelites were guilty of _____ from the living God because they _____ to: (1) _____ His promises and (2) _____ by faith. Do you have an ENCOURAGER? Are you an ENCOURAGER? **Read Hebrews 12:1 - 13 (NLT)** and **Ecclesiastes 4:7 - 12 (NLT)**
- **Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV)** - "Now the just shall live by faith; but if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."
- We are to live, walk and talk by _____. The way we move _____ and go _____ is by _____. We should not draw and go back from living by _____. **FAITH** refuses to *look back* or *go back* to the world and the ways of the world because the best is yet to come!

DON'T LOOK BACK!

Read Genesis 19:15 - 21 (NKJV)

- The names Sodom and Gomorrah are used throughout Scripture as examples of human depravity and God's resulting judgement.
- **Luke 17:32 (NKJV)** - "Remember Lot's wife." What does that mean for us today?
 - **(1st) - Don't _____ and don't go _____.** Why? So you don't do what she did. What was the problem and what was the problem with Sodom and Gomorrah?
 - She was _____ for it; she hated to _____ this LEWD, LUSTFUL, LICENTIOUS and LAWLESS culture.
 - She _____ the life and looseness of the city. She loved that more than she loved God.
 - **(2nd) - What we _____ to **CONNECT** to and **COMMUNE** with we become.**
 - **Read 1 John 2:15 - 17 (NLT)**
 - **(1) Lust of the Flesh** = refers to physical temptations, especially sexual sin; **(2) Lust of the Eyes** = is greed, envy, and extravagance. **(3) Pride of Life** = is the arrogant desire to be recognized.
 - **James 4:4 (NLT)** - "You adulterers! Don't you realize that **friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God?** I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God."

- **1 Corinthians 6:16 - 17 (NKJV)** - “¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is **joined to** a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But he who is **joined to** the Lord is one spirit with Him.”
- **(3rd) - Those who _____ walking in the will of God stop _____ to Him and _____ to Him in FAITH and TRUST.** The disobedience of Lot’s wife is also a lesson to STOP longing for the past and to START looking forward to the future to which God is calling.
 - When Lot’s wife looked back, she turned into a _____ to the divided heart.
 - **Genesis 19:26 (NKJV)** - “But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”
 - **Notice:** (1) She _____ back and (2) She was _____. The *epitome* and *example* of _____ and _____ away from: (1) Finding, (2) Following and (3) Fulfilling the Will and Purpose of God in your life. Too many, are going _____ and too many have fallen BEHIND - gotten Behind Schedule and Delayed in our Obedience.

WHO IS YOUR CHARACTER OF CHOICE? WHO WILL YOU DECIDE TO BE?

Read Genesis 14:1 - 24 (NKJV)

- Lot suffered great material loss and was taken captive in this _____ between Eastern local powers - further consequences of his _____ to live in Sodom and Gomorrah.
- **Some significant “firsts” in Genesis 14:** - First mention of Kings (verses 1 - 18) - First mention of Priest (verse 18) - The first Battle (War) recorded in Bible (verse 8) - The first Tithe recorded in the Bible (verse 20) - The first use of Hebrew (verse 13)
- **Abraham is our Character of Choice:** - **Every other choice is subordinate to the _____ choice!** - Abraham chose “Salem” / Melchizedek to submit to. - Abraham refused: (1) Strife (2) Sin and (3) Sodom
- **SALEM symbolizes:** (1) Separation (2) Sacrifice (3) Sanctification and (4) Surrender to God.
- **SODOM symbolizes:** (1) Sin (2) Selfishness (3) Strife and (4) Siding with the World.
- **Those closest to you will determine the outcome of your life. In other words, the single most important factor defining your future is the relationships you embrace. Every individual in your life is of consequence to you.**
- Your life is built by relationships. **You will receive both the consequences and the rewards of those who are closest to you.** Relationships are like buttons on an elevator. Some will take you up, some will get you stuck, but most will take you down. (**1 Corinthians 15:33**). Isolation provides a false sense of security. It creates an atmosphere of relational irresponsibility.
