

Faith Messenger

The Idols of Our Time

We live in the midst of a post-Christian culture which offers its sacrifices upon the pagan altar of one false god far more than all the rest – the altar of the god of COMFORT in EVERY form. This expectation of COMFORT – of EASE and ACCEPTANCE - has even worked its way into the thinking and the life of the Church. We can see this quite clearly in our approach (or lack thereof) to EVANGELISM. In **Acts 4:33** we read -

“And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.”

Please understand that as I type these words, I do so with the intention that the person most convicted by them and most moved to action by reading them would be the first person to read them - that person being ME. We need to understand that through the influence of our culture’s religion of ease and comfort we have come to see evangelism as an OPTION at most. After all, to really make an effort to “give our testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” with the power that the Apostles did might earn us a reputation as those who “push” our faith on others. We have been told that OPENLY and ANXIOUSLY sharing our faith with those around us is simply TOO EXTREME. We’re warned by our culture that our faith is fine SO LONG AS it remains a personal issue – where you have the right to believe whatever you want and I have the right to believe whatever I want. We are, perhaps subtly at times, encouraged to follow a “keep it to yourself” approach and may well fail to remember that we are surrounded by souls who may never hear the true Gospel of Christ – unless WE tell them.

We publicly state that “Evangelizing the Community” is one of the 4 primary purposes of our being here in Paris, TX – but how much time do each of us spend doing just that? After all, if we WERE to actually BOLDLY proclaim Christ and our testimony to ALL those around us, wouldn’t we be seen as “weirdos”? Wouldn’t we earn a reputation as “Jesus freaks”? The bigger question we need to ask ourselves is this – are we more concerned with the expectations of MEN and of what they may think about us, or with what GOD has told us to do? It is my prayer that we would all learn to move beyond those cultural idols of comfort and ease and reputation. That we would lean on one another as we look for the strength that is present in us through the Holy Spirit to carry out that task to which we are called by the One whom we should PROUDLY proclaim – the One who has both promised and commanded us that:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

– **Matthew 28:18-20**

By His Grace,
Pastor Justin



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 12

6:30pm – Faith Ladies' devotional/fellowship time at the home of Dirk & Lynn VanderMeulen –
1075 CR32240, Sumner, TX 75486

Directions from Lynn: "NOT 32250 as Google suggests – We have a long driveway off of 32240. An ugly mailbox in a row of 3 marks our drive."

If you have questions, you may contact Lynn at (360) 815-5284

Sunday, August 16

9:45am - **Sunday school** - Adults and children will meet together in the sanctuary and continue our study of the Westminster Larger Catechism

10:45am – **Worship** - We will continue our study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians
- Picnic style "bring you own lunch" to follow worship

Prayer Requests for Week of August 9, 2020

1. Praise for God's protection over **Vicky DeKnight's nephew** during his recent travel home from Iraq.
2. Prayer for **Dave DeKnight** as he recovers from shoulder surgery as well as for **Vicky** as she faces surgery for ongoing problems with her knee.
3. Prayer for **Lee Hall** and his family following the recent and unexpected death of his daughter.
4. Prayer for salvation for **Evelyn Ridley's son Randy**.
5. Prayer that God would use the witness of Michael Ridley's son Philip who has recently been sharing the Gospel with a young man named **Travis**.
6. Prayer for **Linda Add's friend Camille** who may be facing a condition that could lead to the loss of her sight.
7. Prayer for **Catherine Webb** who is not feeling well.
8. Prayer for **Mike Leddy** as he continues to battle a number of health issues and for strength for **Georgia** as she continues to minister to him during this time.
9. Prayer for our **nation** and our **leaders** during this time of unrest and difficulty.
10. Prayer for **all of those who have lost jobs** and are struggling through economic pressures during this uncertain time in our country.
11. Prayer for **a number of new opportunities for ministry** that may soon be starting up within our church.

If you have prayer requests, praise reports, or any items that you would like included in our newsletter - or if you have any other questions, concerns, or needs –

please feel free to email Pastor Justin at faithparispca@gmail.com or CALL/TEXT him at (903) 517-6315.

Sunday's sermon and many others can be heard online on our church website at www.faithparispca.org