

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – January 24, 2010

It Is Good.....

“Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here.....” - Matthew 17:4

God once said that it wasn't good for the man to be alone and He set about creating a companion for him: woman. When God had finished His creating work He pronounced everything “good”. It stayed that way until sin entered the world and destroyed the “goodness” God had made. Man lost the image of God because of sin. He lost the holiness in which God had made him; he was no longer “good”. He was broken and tarnished, an enemy of God. His nature and character had been completely corrupted. The infection of his flesh was deep. The judgment on man was in. The Bible testifies that man's heart was “continually evil from his youth”.

Man wants to believe that he is good. He wants to believe his efforts are good. He wants to live with absolute confidence that he can judge the difference between good and evil. But since man is infected with sin he has a twisted sense of evaluation. When the Bible is used as the final judge of absolute goodness and absolute evil, one can see just how twisted man truly is. Man calls evil good and good evil.

Jesus was once addressed as “good teacher”. His reply seems strange. “Why do you call Me good”, He asks, “there is only one who is good” --- God! Jesus is good because He is true God, His rejection of the title “good teacher”, was not a refutation of His nature of absolute goodness, but a recognition that such an unbeliever had no idea what is good and what is evil.

Peter, like James and John, was awestruck at the Transfiguration of the Lord. To see God in His glory, to be confronted with the holiness of God, as a sinful man who wouldn't stumble for a response. It is “good” Lord for us to be here. True. Build three tabernacles and sustain the moment. Bad plan! Here stands Peter in the presence of Christ who is discussing with Moses and Elijah His exodus from this world---His sacrificial death and

glorious resurrection. Christ, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets is here to restore the “goodness” of God’s creation. He is here to confront evil, destroy the power of sin and death, and grant life and salvation to man. What could be better?

The world is waiting to hear the about the “goodness” of God. They are desperate to know that they are cherished by God. As those who are chosen by God’s grace, our challenge is to bring them the Good News! What can you do to bring them the news?

- ❖ Be every Sunday people. The best way to help others know of God’s love is to be faithful in worship at God’s house. It is good for us to be here!
- ❖ Take the pressure off yourself. You can’t make people believe. Only God can work faith. Our call is to be faithful. Share the Good News of Jesus with others as the opportunities present themselves. Let the Holy Spirit work faith.
- ❖ Pray regularly for our congregation and all its endeavors. God hears and answers the prayers of His people offered in faith through Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Study God’s Word at home and with others at church. Here you will learn of the goodness of God and be prepared to share that Good News with others.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. **Don’t wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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