

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – May 16, 2010

Keeping Focused

“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’ ” Acts 1:10-11

“Keep your eye on the ball!” What child hasn’t heard that a thousand times as they are learning to play a new sport. With any endeavor focus is a very important thing. Loss of focus can produce unintended results...and it is so easy to lose focus.

The disciples were eye witnesses to the ascension of Jesus. They watched as he ascended into heaven. The angels came to help them remember not to lose focus. They could have stayed and watched, “for who knows how long”, to see if Jesus would reappear. We might even be tempted to do the same. But Jesus had given them marching orders which did not include dallying on the mountain side. They were to go into Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit...then they were to be His witnesses to the world. They needed to keep focused on what Christ had commanded of them...even though others around them were engrossed in other pursuits.

Did you ever wonder if the church today has lost its focus? It seems to me that in many ways we have and we need to be reminded where our focus should be. Programs and peripherals are nice and can be a blessing from God, but when they supplant worship and witness we have lost focus! First we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. We do that in worship. As we hear the Word of God and receive the Sacrament we are focused upon that one thing that is needful. Secondly we need to redirect our focus to witnessing to Jesus as the only Savior of mankind. Others will not know about Jesus unless we tell them.

Inviting people to visit and join the auxiliary groups of the congregation is a great idea....if it serves the purpose of telling others about Christ Jesus. It is also a wonderful thing when people join our fellowship...but it is more important to tell them about Jesus....even if they don't eventually join Grace.

We need to be reminded from time to time to redirect our focus. Our calling is worship and witness. God adds to His church those who are being saved. So, are we like the disciples? Yes, in many ways and at many times we are. Gazing off into the heavens we have lost focus on the work God has given us to do here on earth. Having just celebrated the Ascension of our Savior and looking forward to the celebration of Pentecost, it is a good time to be reminded metaphorically to "keep your eye on the ball!" May God bless and renew our focus upon worship and witness to His glory and our benefit.

- Remember: Be regular in worship. It is God coming to you to bless you with His grace and it is our best witness to the world about Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Remember: You don't have to be a member of the Evangelism Board to do the work of evangelism. They will be glad to have your help if you would like to assist. The pastors can also help you with ideas on how to share our faith in Christ!

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. He has equipped us for service to Him. **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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