

Sermon Notes

Now What? Part 2

October 14th – October 15th, 2023

- **Now What?**
- Vision Statement: Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out
- Last Week: So, now what? Now we take it to the next level. How redemption works...
 - o More specifically, Now What? Now we fix our eyes on Jesus! Reach up. **Hebrews 12:1-3**
- **Part 2: Now What? Now We Live a Life Worthy of the Lord. Rise Up (Colossians 1:10)**
 - o To me, this is a distinctive part of Good Hope. We accept responsibility and work to get better.
 - o Pattern of this world: Deny everything and blame others. That's easy and makes things worse.
 - Perhaps a Christian version of this is to admit your faults but stay on the wrong path.
 - You can't apologize your way to integrity.
 - o Instead, let's go with **Matthew 7:1-5** and **James 1:22-25**.
- But how do we actually change for the better? Trying hard doesn't always seem to work...so...?
- **John 3:1-7**
 - o Basically, Jesus is saying that you can't look to the physical world to fix a spiritual problem.
 - The Pharisees were very religious, but they were missing the most important thing.
 - o Dead religion (or dying churches) can't be fixed with physical world solutions:
 - Better advertising. Nicer equipment. More money. That isn't going to do it.
 - o So too with each of us. We have to fix the deepest thing inside of us. You must be born again.
 - o You can't look to the physical world to solve a spiritual problem.
 - More money, more prestige, more success isn't going to do it.
 - You can have those things and serve Jesus. But, don't serve those things! **Matt 6:24**
 - One more drink, another affair, a box of doughnuts isn't going to do it.
 - Feeding addictions isn't the way to make it through life. That degrades your spirit.
 - Ruminating on your anger, anxiety, depression, injustice, horror, etc. pulls you down.
 - o We are called to a spiritual life, with spiritual desires and spiritual thoughts. Born again.
- This can be a little challenging to grab hold of. **John 3:8**
 - o So, if you are with me so far, let's go to **Colossian 1:9-14**.
 - Paul is encouraging this church he hasn't personally met. He gives the picture of what we are all striving for.
 - Rescue and Redemption. **Col 1:13-14**
 - Spiritual wisdom and understanding. **Col 1:9**
 - Actually living the life of victory in this world. **Col 1:10**
 - Gaining strength from God over time and enduring. **Col 1:11**
 - Giving thanks for the great blessings we have received! **Col 1:12**
 - o But, if you are still wondering, let's go back to John 3. **John 3:9-15**
 - It starts with believing in Jesus. That means trusting him. (Coach example.)
 - It means believing that Jesus is for you and not against you. **John 3:16-17**
 - It also means not running away from your spiritual need. **John 3:18-19, John 3:20-21**
- Now What? Now we live a life worthy of Jesus. We Rise Up out of darkness into His light!
 - o We need God's help. (That whole looking to the natural world to fix a spiritual problem thing.)
 - o So, let's ask! Closing Scripture: **John 3:21**
 - The truth is, we need redemption and to be born again. Let's walk into that light.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.