

# Sermon Notes

## God's Secret Weapon Part 3

### January 20<sup>th</sup> – January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

- **Part 3: Free from Fear of Death and Judgment**
- One of the greatest aspects of faith in Jesus is our blessed assurance of eternal life in Heaven!
  - o Don't get bored with this one!! What if you could sell a pill that added 500 years of perfect health?
  - o Our God promises eternal life!!! **John 3:16-17**
- As our culture leaves Jesus this message freedom from death will become more important!
  - o Stage one: culture departs from faith in God but still, somehow, expects to go to heaven.
  - o Stage two: people face the harsh belief that this painful life is pointless and short with nothing else.
  - o The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ frees us from the fear of death!
- But, then there is fear of judgment. Belief that you are on the outs with God and condemned. **John 3:18-21**
  - o This is scary. What if Hell is your future?? (Whatever that is...)
  - o Fear of God is actually shown as valuable in Scripture. **Prov 1:7, Luke 12:4-5**. Ouch.
    - The idea is to understand what is at stake and be motivated to live a life that pleases God.
    - However, when fear of judgment is out of control it can be much worse than fear of death!
- God's desire is that no one fears death or fears condemnation. **1 John 4:13-18**
  - o How do we take hold of blessed assurance that we are free from death and condemnation?
    - 1) **John 4:13**. You have received of the Holy Spirit.
      - Pully thing. Where did this come from? Diagnostic tool I'd say.
    - 2) **John 4:14-15**. Faith in Jesus as Savior.
      - This is not diagnostic, but brings us into salvation! **Ephesians 2:8-10**
    - 3) **John 4:16-17**. Christ like life.
      - Back to a diagnostic tool. Drive pully is driving you into a new life.
    - 4) **John 4:18**. Made complete/perfect in love.
      - This is the process. Perfect love casts out fear.
- Two major ditches to stay out of while you walk down the narrow road:
  - o 1) Eternal insecurity.
    - A) Thinking any little mistake means you are going to hell! (too far on Jn 4:17)
    - B) Being stuck in the "getting saved" moment and not becoming a disciple.
  - o 2) Extreme Eternal Security doctrine.
    - The idea that some religious work (like baptism or sinners prayer or whatever) means you can thumb your nose at God and He is trapped into letting you into heaven.
    - You stand by faith! **Romans 11:17-24**
    - I don't want to get into any foolish theological arguments, just to warn you that you need to stay connected with Jesus and walk with him by faith. That's the answer.
      - There is danger in forsaking God, deliberate willful sin, causing division in the church, being totally unproductive, and absolutely refusing to forgive others.
- Ex: **Matthew 18:21-25**
  - o The drive pully sends forgiveness your way, but you refuse forgiveness to others. Not good.
  - o Similar Scriptural examples for forsaking God, deliberate sin, causing division in the Body, and being totally unproductive. When we live like that we can feel the disconnect between us and God.
- The problem here can be that when you look into yourself you fall short.
  - o Don't miss the point: God is the drive pully, look to Him not yourself!!
    - Forgiving evil people is hard. You, like me, probably don't have it in you.
    - Instead, we have to look at our Lord who has forgiven us, and then share that with them.
      - So, whatever the issue, don't look to yourself but to God to help you.
  - o **1 John 4:16-18** Let's repent, get right, and let perfect love cast out fear!!!
- Get prayer by emailing the prayer team: [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag)