Sunday, October 19, 2025

What Are We Doing?

Part 1; The Situation

- What Are We Doing? A Vision Series
  - One of the important things we need to be aware of is this:
    - It's human nature to get sidetracked or distracted. Some of these things aren't inherently bad, but they need to be in balance and secondary to the Gospel.
      - Sometimes we forget and we focus on things like:
        - How do we keep the church doors open, rather than how do we see people saved?
        - How do we meet the needs of the congregation, rather than reaching the lost?
        - How do we enjoy the church "experience", rather than bringing the Gospel to the world?
  - This is why it's very important that we refocus on what we are doing, and why.
    - We want to keep the first things first.
      - Worship the Lord with all of our being.
      - Put His Kingdom first, even if it costs the church here.
    - As the leader of the local church, it is the Pastor's job to define and defend the church culture, so… here we go!!!
  - We have our Vision Statement: Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out.
    - This is what we are about, this is what we are doing. In this order.
  - Why? This is a very important question, so we are going to look at that!!!
- The Situation:
  - The Apostle Paul puts it like this: **2 Corinthians 6:1-2**
    - Don't let your faith have zero effect on your life.
  - The Disciple John says this in **John 3:16-17.**
  - John the Baptist said this. **Matthew 3:1-2.**
  - Jesus puts it this way. **John 3:3, John 10:10.**
- So what's the situation?
  - Today is the day of Salvation!!! (Reach Up!)
    - How exciting is this day! Salvation for all who ask to receive it!
- There is a problem though, most people miss it.
  - Jesus said in **Matthew 7:13-14.**
    - This is such a heartbreak. It breaks Jesus' heart as well.
      - What to do? Make a way, Jesus did that. **John 3:16.**
    - Sadly, not everyone goes to Heaven, don't be fooled into that false teaching. It's not in the Bible. Only those who enter through the Narrow Gate.
- How do we enter through the narrow gate?
  - Using two simple concepts; Repent, and Follow Me.
    - Jesus calls us all to turn away from sin and darkness. That means we are to repent.

        - Repentance means we are to turn from the selfish old way. It's a change of heart, and you can tell when that's not working.
        - We ask for forgiveness, and receive it by faith in Jesus' shed blood.
        - This is Jesus as our Savior.
    - Jesus calls us to turn to Him and live for Him. That means we follow Jesus.
        - This is a lifestyle, not the acknowledgment of a religious system.
        - We follow Jesus as our teacher. He is the one who shows us the way.
        - This is Jesus our Lord.
    - You enter through the narrow gate by making Jesus your Lord and Savior.
        - You're either in or out. There is no walking the fence on this one.
            - **Matthew 24:42; 44-46**
                - We don't know the day or the hour, but today we are closer than yesterday, and unlike the thief in the night who *may* come, Jesus is coming back. In verse 44, He is saying that He will be coming when we don't expect it, but He is coming. He has already set the warning.
                    - If you are on the fence when Jesus comes back and the end times come, you will also be deceived.
                    - **Matthew 24:4, 11, 24-27**
                        - As we talked about in our last series, knowing the voice of God will help to keep you from being deceived.
- Here are some metrics to gauge where people are at in comparison to the fence. According to Pew Research:
    - 28% of adults are now "religiously unaffiliated."
    - Of those, 17% are atheists, 20% agnostic, and 63% nothing in particular.
        - 56% of the "nothings" believe in a "higher power". Sounds like deception to me.
- What are we to do then? Go all in with Jesus.
    - Today is the day of salvation, but tomorrow might be the day of judgement, and then it will be too late.
    - It would be good that your master finds you all in on His side of the fence when He returns.

- The response to the situation:
    - Repent and follow Jesus. **Romans 10:9**
        - It's that simple, because this is a righteousness that you receive rather than earn. You *can't* earn it.
        - That's because Heaven is a perfect place, and we are not perfect people.
            - Being imperfect in Heaven would mess up its perfection, we need to go through a transformation.
            - The power for that transformation comes from the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And if there's power for His resurrection, there's power to perfect us into something fit for Heaven.
    - **Joshua 24:15**
        - Choose who you will serve. Will you serve money, your work, "friends" and "likes" on social media? Or will you choose Jesus? You have the choice.

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One Minute Blessing; Lakewood Church, Pastor Mike Newcomb.