

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious Lord, you are the one who formed us and breathed life into us. But we rely so much upon the structures we have built and not on the foundations you made for us. We find our worth in our job, in our bank account, in what others think of us, in sports, or in fleeting pleasures. Remind us of our true worth: that in Christ's sacrifice we are worth everything to you. Forgive us for shallow faith and renew us by your grace. We long to stand upon your foundation of Christ and not ourselves. Change us. Forgive us. Lead us now. Amen.

Scripture Readings

October 26, 2008

Genesis 2:1-7

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens- and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground- the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

1 Corinthians 11:17-26

In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not! For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Outline ~ October 26, 2008
Conditions For Growth ~ Part 4
"Functional Structures"

Introduction: Teaching sophomore religion...

- Why are we so passionate about our structures?

Two Extremes to Avoid...

"The structure here cannot be _____."
The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?..."
Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." Mark 2:24, 27-28

"Structures are _____ for spiritual processes."
"For God is not a God of disorder but of peace..."
"But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way..."
1 Cor. 14:33, 40

The promise of God...

"Wherever God breathes His Spirit into formless clay,
both _____ and _____ spring forth."

"The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." Genesis 2:7

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:18-20

Answers to Sermon Outline: changed, irrelevant, life, form

BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: **And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.**

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**