

Outline - The One Thing: Changed Priorities

Introduction

- Reminding ourselves of the gospel
- Remembering our priorities before following Jesus
- Today, a focus on believers, and how we form priorities
 - First, as a local church body
 - Second, as individual believers

1. Priorities for the local church

- **Q&A:** What are the church's priorities? What's important?
 - Preaching the word, worship, discipleship, relationship, generosity, outreach, facilities, hospitality, charity/service...
- Why does the church exist?
 - Revelation 21:3, to dwell with God and be his people
 - The church is Christ's bride - Revelation 21:9
 - Ephesians 1:4-6, chosen before the foundations of the world, for adoption as sons
 - 1 Peter 2:9, for his possession, so that we might proclaim his excellencies
 - Ephesians 3:10, through the church the wisdom of God will be made known
 - To be the body of Christ - Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 1:18, 24; 1 Corinthians 12:27
 - *The church exists to glorify, worship, exalt, enjoy God forever*
- What should the church do?
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17, use scripture to equip us for every good work
 - Colossians 1:28, present everyone mature in Christ
 - Ephesians 4:11-15, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ... to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
 - Mark 16:15 Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:20, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.
 - *Glorify, exalt, praise, worship, edify, mature, disciple, be ambassadors, proclaim, win souls*
- What should we prioritize? Why a focus on outreach this year?
 - The dangers of a church focusing only on some, neglecting other priorities
 - Local outreach is already happening at Chapel City; we are asking God to mature us!

2. Priorities for the individual believer

- **Q&A:** What are the believer's priorities? What's important?
 - Worship, outreach, stewardship, generosity, family, pray, read, don't worry, car maintenance...
- Why do I exist?
 - The purposes of church apply to each believer...
 - Psalm 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
 - I am created to dwell with Him and be one of his people
 - I exist to be his son or daughter, chosen before the foundations of the world
 - I am his possession, created to proclaim his excellencies (exalt Him, make Him known)
 - I am part of the church, His bride
 - I am part of His body, He is the Head

- *I exist to glorify, worship, exalt, enjoy God forever*
- ...and these purposes become personal:
 - John 14:23-26 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. 25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
 - John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
- What should I do? What is my part? What is God's part?
 - The church's responsibilities apply to each individual, as part of the body...
 - Worship, exalt, enjoy God in all you do
 - Value and learn God's word
 - Love and edify others, help your brothers and sisters to grow in maturity
 - Be an ambassador for Christ, proclaim the gospel
 - Obedience, put off the old self (Ephesians 4: 22-24, John 14:23)
 - Perform good works God created for us to do (Ephesians 2:10)
 - Ultimately, God will accomplish his plans (and by his grace, will involve me)
 - Revelation 3:19–20 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.
 - Ephesians 5:27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- What should I prioritize? Why should I prioritize outreach, evangelism?
 - The danger of trying to do everything
 - The danger of doing nothing
 - The dangers of an individual believer focusing only on some, neglecting other priorities

3. Mindsets over lists

- Warnings:
 - Watch out for neglect, watch out for busyness
 - Beware of feeling too important in my own eyes (pride)
 - Don't let myself be distracted. 1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.
- Preparing our hearts:
 - Listen to God, prepare for action
 - Listen to people
 - Being ok with God's pace, he is the author of our salvation and our sanctification

Homework (see bottom of discussion questions page)

Discussion Questions - The One Thing: Changed Priorities

1. What are some good reasons to remind ourselves of the crucial elements of the gospel? (God's holiness, our sin and condemnation, Jesus' payment on the cross, our repentance and belief, God's love, mercy, forgiveness.)

2. Does the church have a most important priority? What are some negative side effects of focusing on one of these to the neglect of the others? Pick one and discuss.
 - Worship and the preaching of the word
 - Relationship, discipleship and growth
 - Outreach and evangelism

3. In the area of local outreach / evangelism, what do you suggest Chapel City Church focus on next after the One Thing class?

4. Does the individual believer have a most important priority? What are some negative effects of focusing on one of these to the neglect of the others? Pick one and discuss.
 - Worship
 - Knowledge of the word
 - My own sanctification
 - Evangelism
 - Stewardship and generosity
 - Relationship, time spent with God

5. Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed with a list of responsibilities, priorities, as a believer? What kinds of incorrect thinking can cause this? What truth can combat it?

Homework:

Spend time praying this week for God to **reveal one thing** for you to focus on that will prepare your heart to be involved in God's work declaring the gospel in our community.

Prayer prompts:

- Are there people I'm not noticing, or who I'm ignoring, who God would have me share the good news with?
- Is there sin I need God to deal with in my life?
- Is there an area God would have me focus on (a "One Thing")?