

firstIMPRESSIONS

...from Pastor Tim Satryan

What Are We Leaving?



The song says it well – "Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!" As believers in Christ, we are looking for, and waiting expectantly for that great Blessed Hope – the rapture of the church! And, I believe it will indeed be soon – very soon!

There may be some people who aren't expecting Christ's return. In fact, the Bible says there will be people who say, "Where is the promise of his coming? All things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!" (2 Peter 3:4) However, just a quick look around you tells you that things are NOT as they have always been. One need not be a "news junkie" to be aware of the wars, rumors of wars, famines, weather changes, increases in earthquakes, financial catastrophes... all pointing to Christ's soon return.

Here is something well worth pondering. When Christ comes to take His followers to heaven with him, what will things be like here on this planet? Think about it – no true church, no real believers, and most importantly – with the absence of any real believer, the Holy Spirit will no longer be dwelling within any human being – so there will be no one praying at all!

Last week we answered the question "Where Are We Going?" This week we want to look at the other side of that same question, as we continue our "Focus on the Future" series by asking this important question – "What Are We Leaving?" Don't miss it!

Be Authentic



To make a difference in your world you have to be real. There is nothing worse than a holier-than-thou Christian who never shares his or her hurts and sorrows. I don't know about you, but I can't relate to perfection. Authentic people make a difference in the world.

I heard of a minister in the Midwest who was going for a walk with a soap salesman in the community who was a real skeptic toward Christianity. They were having quite an active debate while walking through the park. The businessman was getting in some good jabs at the inconsistency of Christians.

As they were walking through the park, the soap salesman questioned the minister, "How can you say that Christianity works when even within the inner-city park you see derelicts of every kind, drugs and prostitutes. Then you have the problems of the family, war and disease, not to mention the negative problems of the world. How can you say that Christianity works? Just look around; it's not working."

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They walked in silence for a few moments and then the minister turned to him and said, "You're a soap salesman, right?"

"Yes, of course."

"Is it good soap?"

"It's the best soap on the market!"

The minister turned and pointed to a small child playing in the park who was covered with dirt and grime, and said, "This boy is dirty and filthy from the mud in the park; doesn't your soap help him?"

The salesman said, "Well, you've got to apply the soap."

The minister's response was, "So it is with the Christian faith. You must apply the Christian faith in order for it to work."

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does." – James 1:22–25

How Will I Get In?



A man had a friend who was a highly decorated Air Force officer.

One day, the officer decided to give him a tour of the Air Force base. As they were approaching the front gate, he wondered to himself, "How will I get in? Will they ask me lots of questions and make me wait while they do a background check?"

But just as they arrived at the gate, a burly sergeant waved them through without hesitation.

"How did we get in so quickly?" the man asked the officer.

"This sticker," he replied, pointing to a decal in the corner of the car's windshield. "It lets me and any of my guests onto the base."

Because this man was with a decorated officer who had previous clearance, he could get through the gate with no difficulty.

This is exactly how you and I can get into heaven! On our own, we wouldn't stand a chance trying to enter those gates. We don't deserve the right and could never earn it.

But when you trust Jesus your Savior, you become identified with Him. And if you are "in Christ Jesus," you have free access to God's favor in this life and a sure hope of entering heaven's glory!

Pray that God would give you a new appreciation for your status in Christ Jesus— and that because of Him alone, you can enter heaven's joy!

Simply The Best



Jesus always saw the best in people. He didn't see people as losers, but as potential winners who'd lost their way. Jesus saw everyone He met through God's eyes; not as weeds, but as potential roses.

It brought out the best in them. Where others saw a woman with five failed marriages, Jesus saw a lady in need of forgiveness so she could go and help others. They saw a blind man, but Jesus looked at someone who would be able to help others to see. They saw a cripple, but Jesus pictured a man picking up his mat and walking away.

They saw Matthew as a nasty tax collector; Jesus saw a future disciple. They dismissed Zacchaeus as a thief; Jesus recognized a heart with the potential for generosity. His disciples looked down on a prostitute; Jesus saw the beauty of a grateful heart. Others saw an impulsive fisherman; Jesus saw the makings of a leader who could build His church. Onlookers watched Roman soldiers mocking as they pounded nails into human flesh; Jesus saw blind men who didn't know what they were doing, waiting for understanding.

When Jesus looks at you, He sees your potential, not your failure. Jesus looks for the best and brings out the best. Let Him bring out the best in you. "Now remember what you were, my friends, when God called you." (1 Corinthians 1:26)

When Jesus sees the people you look at He doesn't see geeks, nerds, dorks, losers, emos, goths, or dweebs. Jesus sees simply the best! Will you let Him show you the best in others too?

Breaking Down the Walls



Most of us are trapped in one kind of cell or another. We're stuck in a job we despise. We're held captive by bitterness and an unwillingness to forgive. We're ensnared by addiction. Or materialism. Or feelings of doubt about ourselves and our faith.

Our Lord does not wish to see us enslaved. As Jesus said at the synagogue in Nazareth, "He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind" (Luke 4:18).

He's talking about you and me. We are the prisoners. We are the ones in a fog, the ones who cannot see. Through our obedience to His will, God grants us the power to break down the walls of our cells – but He won't do it for us. We must take the initiative to step into risky reliance on Him.

And yet God does not give up on us. Part of His mercy is that He will do – or allow – whatever is necessary to prod and push us toward freedom. To open our eyes and point out the way.

Excerpted from "A Dangerous Faith" by James Lund and Peb Jackson

To Tell The Truth



Father: I want an explanation and I want the truth.

Son: Make up your mind, dad, you can't have both.

Some people are so addicted to exaggeration that they can't tell the truth without lying. The Bible tells us to "reject all shameful and underhanded methods. We do not try to trick anyone." (2 Corinthians 4:2 NLT) We should speak the plain, unembellished truth, so people don't think there is anything "between the lines..." (2 Corinthians 1:13 NLT) How truthful are you?

There are statements we instinctively disbelieve, like "the check's in the mail... the puppy won't be any trouble... I won't tell anybody." Then there are "lies so clever they sound like the truth." (Ephesians 4:14 NLT) Sometimes it's hard to know whether someone is telling the truth or not. What about you? When people listen to you, are they left wondering if it's the truth? Can your words always be trusted?

Did you know, "the Lord hates... a lying tongue"? (Proverbs 6:16-17 NLT) "A witness who lies will not go free..." (Proverbs 19:9 NCV) So practice telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Try and learn this truth tongue twister as a reminder - "Since truth is always true and only true can be; keep me, O Lord, as true to truth, as truth is true to Thee."

The Last Impression



"I hope you didn't take it personally, Pastor," an embarrassed woman said after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher replied.

"It's not a reflection on you, sir," insisted the church goer.

"Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."



Got plans for this Sunday? You do now! If you are in north Delaware, then you should plan to join us for worship at WFA! I promise you - you will not be sleep walking during church! Looking forward to sharing God's Word with YOU this Sunday at WFA! See you here!



Yours for HIM

[Pastor Tim Satryan](#)

Senior Pastor

WILMINGTON first assembly of God