Sermon Notes:

November 24, 2019

Christ the King/Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy—remember from whence we came.

* As individuals
  + I’m not what I will be in the future
  + I’m not what I should be as I am today
  + But, praise God through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit—I am not what I was
* As a congregation
  + Who knows what God has in store for us in the way of ministry
  + It may be time to look at ourselves today and make some assessments
  + We praise God because God has guided this congregation through many struggles in the past
    - It is difficult sometimes to remember the troubles we have had
    - It is more pleasant to paint the past as a good time
    - The reality is that if we long too deeply for what was (as did the Israelites under Moses) we may miss the opportunity to act in the present to secure God’s Kingdom among us in the future
* Things will never be as they were for us as individuals or as Christ’s Church

This can be a scary thought if we feel we are alone in this journey. But if we follow the instructions God gave through Moses to the Israelites we will be blessed:

* First, we bring our best “the first fruits” to God’s altar
* We remember where we have been…slaves to sin, only saved by God’s mighty power of love for us through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection
* We humble ourselves before God, take a back seat and try not to drive from there
* Then we can celebrate everything God has given us.

The Apostle Paul reminds us to rejoice always…and repeats it. “Rejoice” and gives us a roadmap for life together:

* Be gentle
* Remember Jesus is near…maybe we need to have a “Jesus Doll” with us at all times as a reminder
* Do not worry about anything—this might be the hardest instruction of all if we did not know that Jesus is with us.
* Pray and ask with THANKSGIVING!!!!!How many times do we forget to begin with thanks and praise before we whine and ask?
* That is the path to peace…prayer with thanksgiving
* And keep in mind these things:
  + Truth
  + Honor
  + Purity
  + Pleasantness
  + Commendable actions or attitudes
  + Excellence
  + Things worthy of praise
* Keep doing what you have learned and heard from God’s Word

All of this demands faith, not in ourselves or in any human creation. As Jesus told the crowds who followed him.

* Stop looking for the things that satisfy your earthly desires
  + Comfort—and not just physical comfort of food, shelter and financial security
  + But emotional and spiritual comfort with the way things are (or used to be) that leads to complacency
* Look for the food that truly satisfies, that fills all the holes in your life
  + That longing for control and security
  + That longing for love and acceptance
  + That longing for peace
  + That “God-shaped hole” in your heart that only Christ can fill

Jesus is the only one that can truly satisfy us and give us the ability to have peace within ourselves and with our brothers and sisters.

Invitation and prayer.