

INTRO: Circuit visitor Lorenz, assisting clergy, Immanuel and Misio Emanuelo members, winter Texans, guests, and esp. Rev. Weber, grace to you, and peace... I feel greatly honored by Pastor Weber to preach this sermon at his installation. He may, however, regret his invitation when he hears what I'm about to say to him. I asked my pastor what text to use. Then before he could answer, I suggested the epistle reading for today.
(read text)

I. PAUL'S BRIEF PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Paul has Christ's righteousness (v.9)

1. quite specific: "not having my own righteousness"
2. i.e., Paul's own accomplishments, life style, career, sufferings
3. that righteousness which is by faith in Christ
4. Christ alone is perfectly righteous: holy life & innocent death
5. faith believes what Jesus did, and why
6. as far back as Abraham (Gen.15:6 Abraham believed...counted as...)

B If by grace, what's with 'press on (pursue) toward the goal'?

1. Jesus' sower parable: birds, thorns, depth of soil
2. Heb.6:4 - For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5) and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6) if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God and put Him to an open shame.
3. Lot's wife tempted by lifestyle left behind (Gen.9:7ff.)
4. Peter blew it, but reinstated @ Galilee breakfast (John 21)
5. Paul's 'not attained'; also Romans 7 "Good that I would..."

II. PAUL'S LESSONS APPLIED HERE AND NOW

A. Paul appointed 'elders' in the churches

1. e.g. Titus 1:5 for this reason I left you in Crete...appoint elders in every city as I have commanded you
2. epistles to Timothy & Titus are full of pastoral duties
3. e.g., preach the word; lay hands on and pray for the sick
4. study & teach & preach the '**whole** counsel of God'
5. Rev. Lorenz will cover some duties; won't steal his thunder

(continued)

B. Paul also exhorted the laity

1. probably more so than the clergy!
2. often correcting erroneous ideas or unacceptable behavior
3. accept your pastor's admonitions and warnings
4. be Bereans; search the scriptures to see if these things are so
5. also (1 John 4:1) test the spirits; many false prophets..

C. But Paul neglected the area of 'stewardship' at Corinth

1. 18 months + there; made tents w/Aquila & Priscilla; no salary
2. Philippi Macedonians gifted Paul; not the Corinthians (marble)
3. 2 letters; 1- muzzle ox, 1st day of week; 2nd - cp. to Macedonians
4. Pastor Weber, you must teach the whole counsel of God
5. e.g., 4 weeks ago, Deut.; bring basket of 1st of harvest; (Harold)
6. teach oxen treading grain (Paul, oxen?; Luther, Ox can't read)
7. any time text appears; year round; esp. winter Texans

III. PAUL'S BIOGRAPHY AS AN EXAMPLE

A. Let's review Paul through installation lens

1. Saul's reputation was infamous: Stephan; Damascus letters
2. Acts 9 struck blind; Saul, Saul; Arise...go...be told
3. reluctant Ananias restored his sight, baptized him (means!)
4. to Jerusalem; Caesarea, Tarsus, Antioch; vicarage?
5. Acts 13 H.S. told Antioch cong. to commission Saul & Barnabas
6. descriptive or prescriptive?

B. What's happening here today

1. what is office of keys: It is the peculiar...where is this written
2. thus writes the holy evangelist John 20. The Lord Jesus breathed...
3. 'keys' given to church on earth in the abstract; cong. in concrete
4. keys, cong., pastoral office exist de jure divino
5. synod, circuit exist de jure humano
6. exemplified by recent name change from counselor to visitor

CONCLUSION: Today the human and the divine come together to install Rev. Edmund Weber as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran in Mercedes. Pastor Weber, people of Immanuel, press on toward the goal of the upward calling of our Lord Jesus Christ. Heaven is calling y'all. Keep pressing on. Amen.