

Sermon Title: “What should the Church focus on?”

Primary Text: Titus 3:8-11

Like a “Triage Nurse” helps sort through the priorities in a medical situation, the Church must learn to focus on what is *really* important – the proclamation and defense of the Gospel. As we continued our study through Titus, Pastor Zach commended us as the church to jealously protect the primacy of the Gospel in all that we do.

While on Sunday pastor softened some of the language in verse 10, it is clear from Titus that the Church needs to take seriously the priority of displaying the difference the Gospel makes. While there are many topics that deserve our attention, or even good debate (the EFCA calls some these issues things we will “Debate but not divide over”) when we *insist* on them it threatens to undermine the Gospel itself. This is why Paul said to “have nothing to do with them.”

As we look ahead at the week God has given us, Pastor Zach encouraged us to make it a priority to know the Gospel so that we can discern what is a priority and what is not. When we study the “real deal” we are able to see what things are worth dividing over, what things are worth avoiding, and which things require our intentional passion and action.

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

Revelation 2:1-7 Hebrews 10:24-25

Questions to Consider this week:

- Pastor ended the sermon with two questions to do our own “personal” triage. Are you *really* following Christ? Are you more passionate about a “favorite” doctrine than you are the Gospel? This week, pray through both of those questions as part of your personal study and prayer habits.
- We were challenged to memorize the following statement based on the “Five Solas” of scripture. Commit to memorizing it this week! *Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone.*
- We talked about the friendly disagreement between two “titans” of pastoral ministry. Are there areas that you have trouble fellowshiping with someone over? Consider this week if that is a “1st Tier” issue, and if not pray that God will give you a spirit of grace and mercy as you love your Christian brother or sister.
- Compared to our *access* to scripture, we live in a time where we have a shocking amount of biblical illiteracy. Commit to spending time this week reading one Epistle (like **Titus**) in a single sitting before next Sunday

Prayer

*Lord Jesus, I confess that sometimes I am more passionate than I should be about things other than the **Gospel**. Help me discern those areas of my own life and interests that are good but out of proportion. Give me grace with those around me who disagree so that I do not unintentionally stir up division in Your Church. Thank you for giving us a faithful gathering each week! -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship

“Lead us to Repentance” (Sovereign Grace)

https://youtu.be/o9UqSBxscXw?si=4eKPKahHflbBOdp_