

## Review from Sunday's Message for Personal Meditation:

- i. Key Scripture used in Sunday's Message: **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; 2:17-3:131.**
- ii. Sermon Series Review: *Who We Are; What We Believe; How We Behave.*
  - a. **Who We Are:**
    - i. Our purpose and our passion is to bring God pleasure by believing His Word and doing His Will in the power He provides for the praise of His glory on earth and in heaven.
    - ii. Our vision is Jesus. We are disciples of Jesus, growing in knowledge, faith, grace and obedience, who are committed to making disciples, who go into all the world and make disciples – for the glory of God and the joy of all people.
    - iii. We value: the sovereignty of God, the supremacy of Jesus Christ, the sufficiency of the Holy Spirit, the standard of the Holy Scripture, the sanctity of all creation, the salvation and sanctification of mankind by grace through faith in Jesus, the sacrifice and service of God's people to advance His fame in word and deed.
    - iv. Our priorities are the priorities that God gives us, as recorded in His Word. Bible study, prayer, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship, missions, worship, edification, spiritual maturity.
  - b. **What We Believe:**
    - i. We believe the Bible to be the very Word of God – and, therefore, our authority on what we believe and how we behave.
    - ii. We believe in a Triune God – existing forever in a relationship as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (a Tri-unity).
    - iii. We believe the first member of the Holy Trinity (God the Father) is the initiator of all that God is and does – and He has decreed all that comes to pass for His own glory.
    - iv. We believe that the 2<sup>nd</sup> member of the Holy Trinity took on flesh (became a man) in order to be our Savior. His name is Jesus. Fully God / fully man in one body - forever.
    - v. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the member of the Godhead who is active on earth today: gifting the church to *be* the church and *do* the work of the ministry God has called her to do.
    - vi. We believe that before God created a race of humans – He created a race of angels. They were created to worship God, do His will and enjoy Him forever.
    - vii. We believe that Satan exists – that he was an angel of high distinction who desired to take God's place and be worshipped as God is worshipped. Sin (and rebellion) began with him.
    - viii. We believe that mankind fell in the same way that Satan did – desiring a life independent of God (believing the lie that they could do life better on their own).
    - ix. We believe the entire human race fell - became separated from God - when Adam and Eve sinned. The whole human race was corrupted and lost.
    - x. We believe our only solution to our sin problem (*and our separation from God problem*) is Jesus! He is the God-appointed / God-approved Savior of the World. He is our hope. He is our righteousness. Our faith is in Him.
    - xi. We believe that those who trust in Jesus make up the Church – and those who *are* the Church *associate with the Church* in a recognizable way. Baptism is an initial testimony of a Christian's faith in Jesus, and the Lord's Table is an on-going memorial and meal of fellowship until Jesus returns.
    - xii. We believe Jesus is coming again – and there will be a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness will be enjoyed forever. Satan and sinners will be judged – and God's people will dwell with Him forever! Hallelujah!

c. **How We Behave:**

- i. Because the Bible is our authority, and standard, for what we believe and how we behave, we become active students and listeners of the Word of God – pressing on to unity and maturity in the faith – until Jesus returns and our sanctification is complete.
- ii. The elders of the church have the primary responsibility of providing spiritual oversight to the life of the church. Therefore we hold them accountable to the Scripture and come under their leadership.
- iii. The pastors of the church have a primary responsibility of preaching and teaching – guiding the Church in the Word of God. Therefore we hold them accountable to that task, and submit to the authority of the Scripture and their leadership under the Headship of Jesus Christ.
- iv. The deacons and deaconesses provide an administrative service to the church. We appreciate their ministry and engage with them in the work of the ministry.
- v. We regularly gather together for worship, edification and fellowship. The gathering of God’s people is essential to the growth of God’s people. We don’t neglect it.
- vi. We give. We give according to our means to participate with God in God’s work and to administer God’s grace to people in need. We give gladly because of Who we are giving to and Who we are giving for.
- vii. While our form of church government isn’t a major doctrine for us, we believe it to be important and beneficial to the organization and health of the church; therefore we willingly yield ourselves to its principles of government.

**Questions for Reflection, Application and Fellowship:**

- i. How is your faith doing? Are you believing the truth, walking in the truth, growing in the knowledge of the truth? Are you walking by faith and experiencing its freedom?
- ii. Is your fellowship flourishing? Is your connection with God’s people influencing your faith and deepening your fellowship with God and with one-another?