

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon
"Witness Marks"

Date
7-8-18

Speaker
Pastor Chris Potter

What 3 words would you use to describe God?

"We tend by a secret law to move towards our mental image of God". - A.W. Tozer

- There is a yearning within us to know God, the real God...

"The yearning to know what cannot be known, to comprehend the incomprehensible, to touch and taste the unapproachable, arises from the image of God in the nature of man. Deep calleth unto deep, and though polluted and landlocked by the mighty disaster theologians call the Fall, the soul senses its origin and longs to return to its source." – A. W. Tozer

The Bible is a collection of different stories that share the experiences of people longing to return to their source.

Paul is a great example of this, a man....

- Whose profession was to hunt down and imprison Christians
- Whose understanding of who God is was radically re-shaped through an experience he had with Him.

"It was the greatest honor God did to man that he made man in the image of God; but it is the greatest dishonor man has done to God that he has made God in the image of man." – Matthew Henry

Paul, fresh out of prison, travels to Thessalonica....

- (Vs.) Acts 17:2-7 – "as was his custom"...
- (Vs.) Acts 17:10-13 – Paul had become a professional riot starter!
- Thessalonica to Berea (44 miles) - Berea to Athens (315 Miles)

Paul in Athens – Lay Low / So he heads to the Synagogues and Marketplace

- Areopagus - or Mars Hill, in Athens was the cultural and intellectual center of the ancient world. The Areopagus or Mars Hill is a bare marble hill next to the Acropolis in Athens.
- In pre-classical times (before the 5th century BC), the Areopagus was the council of elders of the city, like the Roman Senate.

(Vs.) 1 Cor. 1:18 – *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

- Jesus is the opposite of what Humans would make up, we have always worshipped Arnold, the Rock, these powerful heroes.
- Jesus flexing his muscle looks like him serving, getting crucified...
- (Vs.) Acts 17:22-31 Paul leads with honor and respect (not criticism), finds common ground, highlights connection, speaks to his audience...

All of his eloquent words lead up to a few simple ideas...

- "seek God"
- "feel your way toward Him & find Him"
- "He is not far from each of us"
- "Repent"

All through Paul's writings he is communicating these truths....

- In the Bible, it says that the Israelites miraculously received water from a rock two times (Exodus 17:1–7 and Numbers 20:1–14). Both times Moses hit the rock, which then produced water... The Bible tells us that God provided manna and quail for them to eat, but it doesn't give any detail as to where the Israelites received their water in the desert for that 40 years...
- **(Vs.) 1 Cor. 10:4** – "and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ."
- We are closer to the year 5018 than we are the Exodus.
- It doesn't matter the audience... God has been, and will continue to, in His way and His time, communicate "I am with you..."

Camp Story – Tattoo & Science

- How Do I know God is there? / I believe in Science!
- This 12-year-old young man is yearning, feeling his way toward God. And my responsibility, as was Paul's, is to share the Witness Marks that I see.
- The Bible doesn't just give us a script to be followed. We have diversity in the Bible, different points of view. The Bible models wisdom more than it does black and white answers to things... It's not as easy as, here is the script, follow it... We have this story that is imbedded in history with struggles and triumphs and failures, and this is meant to remind us that our own stories will have the same...
- The Book of Acts helps us to understand that God is with us, present in us...
It is one of an infinite amount of Witness marks that God has given to us...
- We are all feeling our way towards Him, and Witness Marks help us find our way....