

sermonnotes

Introduction

"We have, and we know we have, the abundant means to bring our boldest dreams to pass--to create for ourselves whatever world we have the courage to desire. We have the metal and the men to take this country down, if we please to take it down, and to build it again as we please to build it. We have the tools and the skill and the intelligence to take our cities apart and put them together, to lead our roads and rivers where we please to lead them, to build our houses where we want our houses, to brighten the air, clean the wind, to live as men in this Republic, free men, should be living. We have the power and the courage and the resources of good-will and decency and common understanding . . . to create a nation such as men have never seen."
- Archibald MacLeish
"America of the imagination"

Since Adam did his thing in the garden, mankind has fought to get rid of God and become his own. Vying for position and control of our fallen environment has been the kingpin of much of the endeavors of humanity since the fall. As the above quote reminds us, we cannot learn from the past, as our hope is what we can create for our future. In our desire to create and control, we are forced to forget. It gives us hope. Our story today is nothing short of this type of posturing and the revelation of our searching, fearful hearts.

From The Head...

Arrogance is Most Often Fueled by Fear (Genesis 11:1-4)

In our current spiritual condition it is easy not to trust God in areas that matter most to us. We take control because our pride won't release it to God. It seems like the right thing to do, but we are unaware of its relational damage and the havoc it ultimately wreaks in our lives. Even our attempts to create religion are acts of fear and desire to have control of our environment.

Arrogance Most Often Ends in Failed Community and Isolation (Genesis 11:5-8).

As much as culture and advancement are blessings from God they are ultimately clear reminders of our separation from God and the community we so badly desire. God in His grace spares man from his own devices, sending humanity into isolation. This certainly isn't optimal, but it may be safe in that a unified humanity could easily be manipulated by the tyranny of the few.

Civilization and Technology Is Not An Ultimate Source of Blessing (Genesis 11:9)

We certainly cannot be Luddites when it comes to technology, but at the same time we must realize that man's advancements have always promised more than they have delivered. Every aspect of technology that man has created to control his/her environment has brought about gain and loss. Technological advances are part of humanities creative lifeblood, and in that sense can be embraced, but we become idolaters if we accept it as our savior.

To The Heart...

- How many of us fail to trust because of our past disappointments?
- How many of us are controllers because of our arrogance and lack of intimacy?
- How many of us are running from God while building our own spiritual pathway?

These are questions that I hope we take seriously because I believe if we do an honest inventory of our lives, we would find ourselves embodying their reality.

Transformation is not easy, but it will at least release our arrogant pride, and begin to trust Him who we don't find trustworthy in our lives.

- Can I trust Him to find a mate?
- Can I trust Him to heal my marriage?
- Can I trust Him to heal me and be the "lover of my soul?"
- Can I trust Him to heal my past and create hope for the future?
- Can I trust Him to be my sustenance in the midst of my hurt?
- Can I trust that He is good and sovereign?

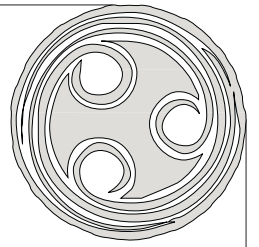
Our answer is NOT taking control and claiming a new way of life. It is trusting in Him who calls us to a new way of life!

What God separates at Babel, He redeems at Pentecost:

- Acts 2:5-18
- Ephesians 2:14-15

God's goal in Christ is redemption of that which is broken, PRAISE GOD!

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