

Paul spoke of a spiritual frontier in which we all can call home. If you think of your spiritual life as a frontier, would you be more likely inspired to share it with others? Would you rejoice in the opportunities to share your life with others who are seeking the benefit of knowing Jesus the Christ? Meditate on these questions and write your thoughts here.

Thursday, November 14

Read Philippians 3:17-4:1. Verse 3:20 reads, “But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Heaven is not a conquering force that demands allegiance but rather an invitation to a life that is forever changed. It is a frontier in which we all find the comfort of Christ because we are not only sent by Jesus but await Jesus to come to us offering salvation and wholeness through his resurrection. Heaven is not just a destination for when our life on earth is over; it is our home now and we are called to constantly build this Kingdom of God with our embodied faith. What are your thoughts? What are you waiting for Christ to do in your life? What do you desire Christ to do for you? Pray for God’s wisdom as you write your reflections here.

Friday, November 15

Read Philippians 3:17-4:1 once again. We are citizens of heaven but our home is here on earth. The Christian faith is an embodied faith which means that our work for God’s Kingdom is in the here and now and in any place where Christ’s presence is needed. We are called to action just as Jesus was a man of action. He was not so heavenly minded that he was of no earthly value; through Jesus, lives were saved, forever changes and people received a new life. Praise God for the call upon our lives to be the embodiment of Jesus in the world. Write your ideas here on how you can embody your faith.

Message Notes – November 10, 2024

Crucial Citizenship*

- I. Since the days of Lewis and Clark, Americans have been fascinated with the _____ and pushing out our _____.
 - A. In 1893, historian Frederick Jackson Turner suggested that it was actually this frontier _____ that formed the unique vision of American democracy.
 1. We’re a people forged by _____ boundaries and seeking to extend our ideas and ideals into other places.
 2. The problem with this kind of thinking is one person’s “_____” is often another’s “_____” and the ensuing conflict frequently gives birth to sad historical consequences.
 - B. What if there was a way to _____ that narrative ensuring that everyone felt completely “at home”?
 1. What if there was a way that everyone could see themselves as citizens of a _____ country or kingdom no matter where they happened to live?
 2. For Paul, the most important frontier was the one that God had opened up in sending _____ into the world.
 - C. To fully appreciate Paul’s thinking about expanding the Kingdom of God on earth, we first need a little history lesson on _____.

*Philippians 3:17-4:1 and Luke 13:31-35

- II. “Our citizenship is in heaven,” says Paul, but like those Roman colonists in Philippi, their real mission wasn’t to go back “home” to a place they had never been (v. 20).
- A. The church is to be a colony of God’s kingdom — when anywhere, do as _____ does!
 - B. Notice, it’s not about these citizens _____ to be where Christ is, but instead about Christ _____ to save them.
 - C. And how will he save them? By _____ from the dead.
- III. We, as citizens of _____ are to bring _____ to earth; we pray for this every time we pray The Lord’s Prayer: “On earth as it is in _____.”
- A. Christianity is an _____ faith, not merely a spiritual one.
 1. That means we don’t treat the _____ as a throwaway, temporary reality.
 2. We don’t treat our _____ as temporary shelters for the Spirit, but as the grounded reality of our creation in the image of God.
 3. We don’t treat death as a kind of _____ from the physical realm.
 - B. Our citizenship is in _____, but our _____ and our _____ are here on earth.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, November 11

The Message yesterday began with the question, “What do you think of when you hear the word frontier?” Perhaps you thought of your response to that question when you first heard it. Take time to think about your response and write your thoughts here. In addition to thinking about your response to the word frontier,

do a brief evaluation of whether your thoughts are positive or negative. Take some time to write your reflections here.

Tuesday, November 12

As part of exploring the meaning of the word frontier, Pastor Jack spent some time explaining the work of historian, Frederick Jackson Turner, who in 1893 suggested that it was actually this frontier mindset that formed the unique vision of American democracy. Dr. Turner believed that this “Frontier Mindset” formed the unique American vision of democracy with its “coarseness and strength combined with acuteness and acquisitiveness; that practical inventive turn of mind, quick to find expedients; that masterful grasp of material things ... that restless, nervous energy; that dominant individualism.” To some these words might be flattering but to others they could be negative. What do you think? How does your reaction to Dr. Turner’s description of the “Frontier Mindset compare with your evaluation of your thoughts about your reaction to the word “frontier?” Contemplate these questions and write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, November 13

Read Philippians 3:17-4:1. Pastor Jack shared during the message that the problem with frontiers is one person’s frontier is another person’s home. Paul, a Roman Citizen, would have been familiar with the history of the Roman Empire and possibly the battles fought in and around Philippi in northern Greece. Paul was also a Jew and he came up with the idea that the greatest frontier was the spiritual frontier in which Jesus made others aware of the Kingdom of God on earth. This Kingdom of God was a frontier in which everyone could feel at home and in unity with others, no matter how different they were, from their ethnicity to their economic status or prior allegiances.