

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

Happy are they who follow the teaching of the Lord. (v1)

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see & understand the things we ought to do, & give us grace & power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

¹Brothers & sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy & quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, & behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," & another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants & the one who waters have a common purpose, & each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What does *Matthew 5:21-26* add to St. Paul's discussion of factions within the congregation?
2. *Hebrews 5:12-13* & *1 Peter 2:2* also speak of "spiritual milk." What do they add to *vv1-3*? What is the milk according to St. Paul in *1:5-7, 13, 18*? What is the solid food? See *1 Corinthians 2:2, 6, 4:16, 11:1; Ephesians 5:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; Hebrews 6:1-12, 13:7; 3 John 1:11; don't forget to check surrounding verse for additional context. See also John 14:15-21*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. How does St. Paul drastically reorient the priorities of those who work for the kingdom in *v7*? *Proverbs 3:34, 26:12; See Matthew 5:1-12, 23:11, 25:14-30; Luke 12:35-38, 17:7-10, 11-18, 18:9-17; John 15:5; Acts 12:20-23; Romans 12:3, 16; Galatians 6:3; James: 1:22-26, 4:6, 10; 1 Peter 5:5-11*
4. In *Philippians 1:15-18* St. Paul makes an odd point (*cf. Luke 9:49-50*). Is Paul contradicting himself or excusing bad behavior? How is he pointing to a bigger picture, rather than letting folks devolve into pettiness all around? See *Romans 12:18; Philippians 4:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:1*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Guests can quickly tell when their hosts are factious (formed into factions, cliques, clannish, etc.), especially in congregations. How does reciting a mission statement & using a mission statement as the measure of ministry programming help a congregation develop team spirit & find alignment with one another?
6. Many a relationship has been ruined by "score keeping," that is reminding others everything you've done for them, over & above what they did (or didn't) do for you. How do gratitude & generosity work against this? How can you increase your gratitude & generosity within your congregation? See *Colossians 3:16*

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Series: What's Up with Baptism?

02.12.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Reconciles Us

Some rebalancing is needed in our one-sided lives

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: For as long as there is jealousy & quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, & behaving according to human inclinations? (v3)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

You are the light of the world.

A city set upon a hill cannot be hid. (*Matthew 5:14*)

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