

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalm 34:9-14

Those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good. (v10)

Ephesians 5:6-21

John 6:51-58

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened & sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Ephesians 5:6-21

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be associated with them. ⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good & right & true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, & Christ will shine on you." ¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms & hymns & spiritual songs among yourselves, singing & making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times & for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. What connections do you find between *Psalm 34:9-14* & *Ephesians 5:6-21*? *Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc.*
2. Intemperance among Christians led to division, factions, & recklessness (*cf. v18; 1 Corinthians 11:20-22; Galatians 5:21*). What does *1 Thessalonians 5:1-8* add to *Ephesians 5* about our everyday lives as we await the Lord & his coming?

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

3. "Awakening" (*cf. v14*) has long history in Christianity (& Judaism *cf. Judges 5:12; Psalm 108:1; Isaiah 52:1*). When are 3-5 times you were awakened to the spiritual stakes of a situation? What were you led to do about it? *See Romans 13:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:6, John 9:5*
4. Our bodies were made to discern the Lord's will, be filled with the Spirit, to make music to the Lord, to give him thanks, & to give ourselves to one another (*cf. vv17-21*). Building on #3, where is God rousing you from sleep about your own physical wellbeing for his purposes?

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

5. Building on #4, what difference does it make when guests encounter a congregation vigorously singing, smiling, grateful, & gracious to all? Do you think they're able to intuit such joy & enthusiasm as a genuine encounter with the Lord? How do you explain the apparent correlation between growing churches & enthusiasm (awake?) versus idling churches & indifference (asleep)? *See Acts 4:23-31, 32-37, 5:12-16*
6. With a major election coming & with civilizational chaos all around, how do *v16; Amos 5:13; John 3:17-21, 12:35; Colossians 4:5; Galatians 5:21-23, 6:10*, keep you awake for other's sake?

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12th Sunday after Pentecost

08.11.24

Series: CHRIST for EveryBODY

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

We glorify God with our bodies as he instructs us

Caring for the Body

*Despite our best efforts, our lifetimes are limited,
but eternal life starts now.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Live as children of light —
for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good & right & true.
Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. (*v8b-10*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Those who eat my flesh & drink my blood abide in me,
and I abide in them. (*John 6:56*)

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