

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 31st January 2021
Sermon Title: Foundations of Discipleship: Our first love
Bible Passage: Revelation 2:1-7, Ephesians 1:3-23

Recapping the Preach

Take time to read the two passages and perhaps look at a different translation

- What stood out to from the passages?
- What contrasts are there between the passage from Revelation and Ephesians?

Stu began by reminding us of the importance of keeping good foundations and the need to check our foundations. The reasons for this is because we drift (Hebrews 2:1). *To drift is a gradual shift in direction or position, to be on an aimless course, to be carried along subject to no guidance or control'*

- In what areas of life do you find yourself drifting from time to time?
- Why do you think we drift?
- Stu mentioned that drift requires no effort, is an unconscious process, never happens against the flow and a tiny bot of drift can leave us way off course. Do you agree with this? Are there other things about drift that you would like to highlight?
- Can you think of other examples where people have drifted (for example Nehemiah 13)?

It is clear that the church in Ephesus had drifted, although they had a great heritage, testimony and foundation of teaching they had drifted from their first love. Stu mentioned that the text seems to suggest the reasons for their drifting was their hard work and quest for doctrinal purity, which seemed divorced from grace.

- Do you agree that the reasons for their drift was as a result of their hard work and quest for doctrinal purity which seemed divorced from grace?
- Why do you think hard work causes us to drift from our first love?
- Stu shared a quote by CH Spurgeon, '*When love dies orthodox doctrine becomes a corpse, a powerless formalism. Adhesion to truth sours into bigotry when the sweetness and light of love to Jesus depart'* Take a moment to reflect on this - do you agree? What can be done to safeguard against this?
- Why do you think it is important to maintain Christ as our first love?
- Have there been moments when you have drifted from Christ being your first love? How were you restored? What led to you being restored?

Stu pointed out the that Jesus sees past their facade and points out that the church has left their first love. Jesus is full of grace and truth: he points out the reality of their condition and extends grace, showing the way back.

- Why is it important that they remember the beginning?
- Stu pointed to Ephesians 1 as the things they needed to remember. Do you agree this is a good place to start? What would you add?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Are there areas in your walk with God where you have drifted?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Worship the Lord together - thanking him for His grace and truth.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>