

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 14th March 2021
Sermon Title: Priority: the reason we exist
Bible Passage: Ephesians 2:1-9, 1:11-12, 4: 11-13, 6:19-20

Recapping the Preach

Throughout March we will be exploring the 4P's for KBC: prophecy, priorities, purpose and pursuits as we reset our focus as a faith family. Last week we focused on the Prophecy: the promise that beckons us forward and identified that we are '*a place to grow*'. We continue this week by looking at our Priorities: the reason we exist. Stu began with a brief explanation of the gospel (Ephesians 2:1-10) and made the point that each of our priorities for the church flow from the gospel or find their roots in the gospel.

- What stood out to you from this passage?
- How does this passage connect with the priorities?

In brief our priorities as a church (I would argue that this is true for every church) are worship, discipleship and mission. Let explore each one in turn.

A place to grow in loving Jesus and encountering the Presence of God (worship). Read Ephesians 1:11-12.

- Why do you think worship is a priority for us?
- How would you explain/describe the importance of 'worship' to someone on your frontline?
- Stu referenced the exodus and return of the exiles as examples of worship being a priority. What other passages of Scripture could you identify that highlight the priority of worship for the people of God?
- Why do you think the gathering of God's people to sing and declare His praise is so important for us as disciples?
- How are you growing as a worshipper?

A place to grow in living for Jesus and as a follower Jesus (discipleship). Read Ephesians 4:11-13.

- Why do you think growing as a disciple is important?
- What would you say to a fellow disciple who says, 'I am saved and God is sanctifying me by the Spirit, so all I need to do is 'let go and let God work'?
- How do you manage the tension between God doing His work by the Spirit transforming us and us doing our work by forming habits and disciplines to grow?
- Make a list together of passages of Scripture which speak about growing up to maturity?

A place to grow, making space/room to lead people to Jesus (mission). Read Ephesians 6:19-20.

- Why do you think God invites us to be a part of His mission?
- What passages in Scripture highlight the priority of mission (Old Testament and New Testament)?
- How is God using you to be a messenger of the gospel?
- Peter encourages us to always be ready to give a reason for our hope in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). If someone asked you, 'What is the reason for your hope?', how would you answer them?

Stu closed by explaining that whilst corporately we need to maintain these priorities in balance, individually, because of our gifts, talents and passions, we may lean more heavily towards one priority and this is OK.

- Out of the three priorities we have identified, which do you lean towards most because of your gifting, talent and passion?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Is there a priority you need to grow in?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that God would help us to keep these priorities in balance.
- Pray that each disciples at KBC would know and discover what area of church life they need to prioritise so that they can use their gifts and talents.

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/>