GOD'S WAY TO HEAVEN

NOTES

1. GOD LOVES YOU and wants you to have eternal life with Him.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Every one has sinned.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

The good news is that JESUS CHRIST is God's solution to your sin problem. He is the ONLY way to heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS** alone to save you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

 Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a NEW LIFE with complete assurance of SALVATION.

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."



WORSHIP SERVICES

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Courage to Keep Going

(1 Samuel 18)

In 1 Sam. 17, Saul announced that whoever defeats Goliath would become his son-in-law and that he would be granted riches and his family exempt from taxes. Saul did not keep his word to David. He also did not allow David to go back to his father.

In ch 18 (vv.10-11) we see that Saul became intensely jealous of David that he threw a spear at him to pin him to the wall. David's faith was not only courageous as we learned last Sunday, but now we see another facet of David's faith - his faith was also enduring through the difficulties he encountered and the continuing tests of his faith.

There are three practical lessons about enduring faith that we can learn from David in chapter 18: the acronym **LED** will help us remember.

Look beyond the shortcomings of others.

Despite Saul's malicious actions towards David, there was no bitterness and anger in David's heart. Instead, there was humility, quiet submission, and obedience to Saul's directions. In the midst of such abusive treatment of David by Saul, God continued to bless David! "And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him." (v. 14)

Remember that first, walking in faith does not ward off adversities, shortcomings or mistreatment by others, but a God-fearing person with enduring faith looks beyond these shortcomings or mistreatment. Second, the presence of God in our lives will sustain us in walking by faith as His presence sustained David.

Embrace your current position or place in life.

At this time, David already knew that he would be the next king of Israel (Samuel 16). But he did not let this get into his head. He was still a servant of Saul at that time, and he humbly embraced that position.

"And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" David clearly embraced his humble circumstances as a former shepherd and now a servant of Saul. He knew that his time to be king would come. David knew that the Lord who rescued him from the paw of the lion and bear and from the hand of Goliath, would also deliver him from being killed in the hands of Saul.

Depend on God's sovereignty.

David did not devise schemes to get back at Saul and fast track his kingship even when David had opportunity to kill him in a cave. He left that to God. Obviously, David trusted in God's sovereignty.

Application/Reflection:

Two things are certain based on what we have learned these past 2 Sundays:

First, we will always face trouble in this life. We have seen this in David's life in the Old Testament. The apostles and followers of Christ in the New Testament also faced trials which tested their faith.

Courage to Keep Going (cont'd)

Second, we can face our troubles with confidence because God is with us. As the Lord was with David, he is also with us and with those who have put their faith in Christ.

As we face the Goliaths and King Sauls of life, remember that there is no problem, no difficulty, and no struggle that you face that is bigger than God. His presence will be your strength. Rest assured that He will not allow you to be tried beyond what you can bear. Just as sure as the trials come, God will provide a way out (1 Cor. 10:13). Do not let the shortcomings or mistreatment by others weigh you down. Remain faithful where God has placed you. Always depend on God's sovereignty. He is in control, so by faith, release your cares, concerns and worries to God through prayer, trusting Him and doing what His Word promises through faith that endures.

A Note on How God Looks at the Heart.

1 Sam 16:7, when Samuel came to see Jesse to anoint one of his sons as the next king of Israel: ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his_appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." may teach us valuable lessons in parenting. Most parents tend to focus on the behavior of their children and neglect the shepherding of the heart. So, children may behave well when the parents are around, but when left on their own with friends, they are different people. Parents should pay attention to a child's heart orientation.

The same principle applies to Christian friendships and dating: in choosing your marriage partner, don't get caught up with the looks or outward appearance. If the Lord has not called you to single blessedness, the next biggest decision you will make after surrendering your life to Christ is choosing a lifetime partner in marriage. When doing so, look at the heart — a heart that seeks after God - not the looks or the height, which are bonuses. This is the secret to sparing yourself from unnecessary pain later on in life.

Focus on becoming a man or woman after God's own heart like David. When the time comes that the Lord leads you to your future spouse, you would be a precious gem, a priceless treasure to your future husband or future wife and to your children.

If you are already married and you discover that the person you married is a Mr. Eliab or Mrs. Eliab, the same principle applies but this time, look beyond the shortcomings of your spouse and focus on seeking the Lord to change your heart to be like that of David's – a heart that seeks after God. ~

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please use CCF tithe envelopes (available at usher's table) for ALL tithes, offerings and donations. Our tithe box is located at the usher's table.

If you're giving via cheque, please write it to CCF Vancouver.

You can now give ONLINE!! Just go to www.ccfvancouver.org/give/ to donate.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to worship • Praise and worship • Children dismissal • Sermon • Response song • Benediction



ANNOUNCEMENT AND REQUEST FOR PRAYER

The Music Team will be have a get together on Sunday, Nov 12 after the service. If there are those interested in joining the team this is a great way to ask questions. Please see Marj for more details.

Please pray for the Leadership Planning and Retreat on November 24-25, 2017.

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| Name | Phone/Email | __ |
| Prayer Request/Answe | red Prayer | |
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| Please drop in tithe boxes | | |