

Sunday Celebration (12-19-04)  
"Restoring Biblical Expectations"

Restoration of the Church (Pt. 10)

INTRO: What Should We Expect Christianity to Look Like? .... This matters, since Expectations Frame Our Pursuit & Practice.

We pray in the realm of our expectations (things that we don't believe can or should or will occur, we won't pray for); we prepare in the realm of our expectations (if I expect that sharing the gospel will impact people, we prepare to share it, if I expect that Parenting My Children will have a beneficial impact, I prepare to parent them)

NOTE: Concerning "**BIBLICAL PROPORTION**" — The Christian Life and Christian Knowledge is FILLED w/ IMBALANCE (primarily in the area of EMPHASIS more than "Awareness").

- Preachers & Ministries are Partly to Blame ...
- Listeners & Learners are Partly to Blame

*"Over the years, I have observed that the majority of what Christians believe is not derived from their own patient and careful study of Scriptures. The majority of Christians believe what they believe because godly and respected teachers told them it was correct."* Jack Deere "Surprised by the Power of the Spirit", p. 47

... We tend to be "**COMPARTMENTAL LISTENERS**" where we are **listening for** (a) What We Already Know How to Hear or (b) Where We Happen to Experientially Be at that Moment

## LIVING WITH BOTH AWESOME & AVERAGE .... The Ordinary & the Extraordinary

The Disciples & 1<sup>st</sup> Century Knew Something of the "AWESOME"!

Peter Walking On Water

Paul Travels by Boat (Acts 16:11) .... What Was Paul's Expectation? He obviously believed in Miracles, but expecting to not need boats any longer wasn't how he applied what he knew.

The Disciples Witnessed Jesus Feed the Multitudes with a few Loaves & Fish  
Peter, James, John, & Paul collected offerings to care for the poor (Gal 2:10)

Jesus told the disciples to get money from a Fish's Mouth (Matt 17:27 go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me.)

What Did They Come to EXPECT based on this event? .... Not that God would supply all their means this way, but that God would come through somehow!!

Peter Preaches to the Masses (Acts 2)— potentially putting his life on the line

Peter Gives in to the Fear of Man (Gal 2) — fearing the Judaizers

– Are We Disillusioned if a Leader Gives in to a COMMON HUMAN WEAKNESS

**Apollos Teaches Eloquently (Acts 18:24-25) .... We Should Expect the Gift of Teaching to Have Impact**

**Apollos Needs Some Help in His Understanding (Acts 18:26) .... We should not become disillusioned when Preachers/Teachers lack Full Insight**

**Peter is Miraculously Freed from Jail, when the Church Prays (Acts 12:6ff)**

**James is beheaded (Acts 12:1-3)**

– Do We Become Disillusioned When Things We've Prayed about (Even as a Church) Don't Work Out the Way We'd Hoped?

**Peter Raises Dorcas from the Dead (Acts 9:36ff); Paul raises Eutychus from the dead (Acts 20:7ff)**

**Paul can't help Trophimus & Timothy (2 Tim 4:20 Trophimus I left sick at Miletus; 1 Tim 5:23 No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.)**

**HEALING**.... the bible teaches us to pursue healing, it informs us about the gift of healing, it gives examples of healing.

.... The bible also teaches us about death, about suffering in the realm of our physical existence, about setting our hope on heaven and a new body, about the saints having to pursue other remedies besides physical healing.

... We should take care of our bodies (how we eat, rest, exercise), use medicines and medical know how when appropriate, while pursuing God for healing that may include these means or a completely supernatural remedy

**Paul is Powerfully Commissioned (Acts 26:15-18)**

**Paul is Effectively Opposed (1 Thess 2:18 For we wanted to come to you — I, Paul, more than once — and yet Satan hindered us.)**

**The Church is Gloriously Presented (1 Tim 3:15 in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.; Eph 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.)**

**The Church Has Great Weakness & Problems**

#### The Corinthian Church

God was at work .... 1Co 1:1-8

Sin was at Work .... 1Co 1:10-11, ... 5:1 .... 6:1 .... 11:17-22

What Did Paul Instruct Them to Do?

#### The Galatian Church

Error Was at Work .... Gal 1:6-9,

God Was Also at Work ... Gal 3:1-6

**What Kind of People then Should We Be? (What should we expect?)**

- Note: If you Aim at AWE you will at least get both Awe & Average, but if you Aim at Average you'll probably get Neither.

— On the Other Hand, if we're Not Aware that Sometimes the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christian Experience was Average, we get easily disillusioned with CHURCH LIFE ..... MINISTRY ATTEMPTS .... PURSUIT of SIGNS & WONDERS