

RCC - Back to Church! Series -- Ps 122:1a -- June 21, 2020

Why Do I Need the Church? -- Acts 2:42

Aim: I need the church because it connects me to God's Word!

Intro -- Coming back... Today on this Father's Day, 2020, we're beginning a new sermon series--Back to Church! We just heard the lyrics to the song."Take me back to the place that feels like home. To the people I can depend on. To the faith that's in my bones. Take me back to a preacher and a verse. Where they've seen me at my worst. To the love I had at first. I wanna go to church."

I shared with you last week that it had been 3 months, nearly 90 days since we'd met in person at church. That's a long time to be out of a person to person fellowship. But, maybe our absence has made you, us long for God's people, the church even more. Didn't it feel good to be together again? I hope it does for you and that maybe our perspective on church will be forever changed as a result of it. That we will not ever forsake the assembling of gathering together.

So, as I said, we're beginning a new series today, Back to Church. Psalm 122:1 says, "I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Now, that was from David, regarding going to the Jewish Temple. But, we could also say that about going and meeting together, as the church. The church in Acts met everyday at the temple. Everyday! They loved each other and they longed to get together. It wasn't a HAVE to, it was a WANT to! We could even say, they NEEDED the church.

And, we do, too! Why do I, why do you need the church? That's the question, I want to answer in the next 4 weeks in our series, Back to Church. To do that we're going to look at one verse from Acts 2:42. "***And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.***" Luke gives us the 4 primary reasons why we need the church. Today, we're going to look at, we need the church because it connects me to God's word!

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. Doctrine is teaching, principles, truths of God's word. They, as the church were steadfast to hear, study and learn God's word. Now, the church isn't the only place to know God's word. But, the church has a primary responsibility to proclaim and explain God's word. Whenever we meet as the church, in a big or small group, we want to connect you to God's Word--The Bible.

I want to give you several ways the church connects you to God's word...

I. God's Word is Truth -- We need to start here. Absolutely true!

--Ps 119:89 -- settled in heaven, it is fixed, permanent, doesn't change

--Ps 119:160 -- all of God's word is true.

--Deut 4:2, I Cor 4:6 - no Revelation outside of Scripture. God only speaks this way

--John 17:17 -- truth sanctifies, changes us

II. God's Word gives us Word Pictures about itself

--Jer 23:29 -- Fire - purges, consumes, separates

--Jer 23:29 -- hammer - breaks, shatters a hard heart

--Ps 119:105 -- light -- clarity, direction, discernment

--Matt 13:3-ff -- sower of seeds - Word of God planted in our hearts

--Heb 4:12 - sword - penetrates deep within us, spiritual surgery

--I Peter 2:2 -- milk - Christian compared to baby who craves milk for food, growth

III. God's Word gives us a solid foundation -- Ps 40:2 - David

-- Matt 7:24-27 -- Jesus' parable of two men/two foundations

--What are you building your foundation on? Worldly things? Or Christ?

--On Christ the solid Rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.

IV. God's Word is ultimately a Story about Jesus

--Love letter? Instructions? More than that...

--It's a Story about a Family --Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David

--Story of promise about a coming Deliverer - through cross of Christ

--Story of redemption still be written

V. God's Word gives us Hope for a future

--Luke 24:21--their hopes seemed gone, much like our world today--but our hope is not in government, economics, medicine,

--What Hope is -- hope is not wishful thinking, confident expectation in God

--Rom 15:4 - Bible is one event after another where all seemed lost but God comes through promising hope

--Revelation -- book that reveals the resurrected, conquering Christ, who will destroy all evil and make everything right again.

Conclusion

*Restoration Movement 19th century - No Book but Bible. Where the Bible speaks

*A famine in the land? -- Amos 8:11 -- Asking God to give us a hunger for His Word!

