ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What are the signs of success given by Phil Newton towards the end of his talk? To the extent that this is true, where should we focus our spiritual energies? What does this practically look like so that it is not merely more dependence only on our wills/effort?

- Perseverance is hard to fake
- Small goals – "I'll do it until…" look further – to eternity – and look to please Him
- Perseverance by-product of source of life and identity
- Perseverance proves what you value
- The Word/prayer/Holy Spirit in the sphere God had placed His people (circumstances, health, specific group of believers)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What are your thoughts from these two books? Verses to go along with what you heard?

- Intentional, desire level, Do it (personal relationship) – Rom. 12:1-2
- Show me the weeds (humility) – Phil. 2:12-13
- Prayer is NOT the hand tool
- Amazing how quickly we devalue fellowship – 1 John 1
- Must have His resources or you won't get there
- Use the same standard on yourself - Matt. 7:1
- Something greater than death – keep going

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

- Music can manipulate emotions
- Easier to be “moved” than “repent”
- People in front are performing a service, not performing for an audience
- We need to be careful what we are looking for when we come for corporate worship
- Relationship w/ God that is what should be affected

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

While we might all say that we agree that the focus shouldn't be on the "professional" or the "perfect" in our music/services, where do you think we practically undermine this?

SHOULD

- Be order, intention, goal, right tools (chaos not of God)
- Minimum standard so least distraction
- Perhaps include, but not demand

SHOULD NOT

- Expect perfect climate for effective worship & growth, right heart should create climate which pulls toward Godly order
- Only be able to see transcendence with my preferences
- By not having a final word, living relationship with God

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

How do we protect from the danger of stimulating human affections rather than seeking the supernatural change which produce "genuine affections"? (how do we have our emotions involved with our music/services in a way that leaves us content with God Himself and not dependent on another "self-centered fix?")

- Process of change – includes will, but "what" are we asking them to do?
- Where are we directed? Where are we focused? willing to examine – be examined – want Him to get glory (the Holy Spirit will leads us)
- How do we determine spiritual worth, growth and are there emotions beyond the experience
- Boundaries/Holy Spirit
- How do we select our leaders?
- When thinking on music, who/style –> what grid is that going through?
- Does God have final word in all aspects?
- Must actively interact with what we've heard if we are going to walk in it

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

How do we protect from the danger of stimulating human affections rather than seeking the supernatural change which produce "genuine affections"? (how do we have our emotions involved with our music/services in a way that leaves us content with God Himself and not dependent on another "self-centered fix?") CONT.

- Must have humility to examine our assumptions and willing to change
- Knowing God has thoughts/intentions
- Must have structure to protect against this (how define healthy structure)
- Preferences based on assumptions (trained to like, to accept) i.e. Hymns – theology, something timeless, but must think about more before you say right/wrong
- Take preferences back to God – so can focus on His center

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

While we don't "walk an aisle" or focus on "praying a prayer," where do you think we can apply using right biblical commands for wrong focuses of repentance and faith?
(here's what you need to do if you want to be right w God . . . .; what characterizes right guilt vs. wrong guilt; right focus versus wrong focus when repent; right focus when believe/live by faith vs. wrong focus?)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Ben Lacey talks about “carrying our cross” leading to fruit that is cross-shaped. What does he mean? What would this include?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

If this "cross-shaped fruit" is lasting and eternal, what are the implications for us if we've focused on other fruit? (First negatively, i.e. What does this mean for former "effort"/fruit? What will our feelings/life look like as we address the change in focus to get "cross-shaped fruit"?)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

If this "cross-shaped fruit" is lasting and eternal, what are the implications for us if we've focused on other fruit? (Positively—looking to move in right direction, how do we live while we change our focus? What will our feelings/life look like as we address the change in focus to get "cross-shaped fruit"? Where should we find hope, life?)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

He said, if we want to see revival coming from the Spirit of God, we must preach the Word and pray. What should be preached? God's holiness, man's sinfulness, Christ's righteousness, and then a call to carry the cross. Where was the hope for John Bunyan when he was grieved by his sin?

What keeps us from focusing there when we feel the weight of our sin and what is the result?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What thoughts cross your mind about our individual and corporate responsibility with the Lord's Table and Baptism? (not merely what is the problem, but how should the definitions of these studied and strengthened actually promote healthy churches AND protect against nominalism and unholiness)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

A love for God and a love for others will lead to 5 distinct things that go together. Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions. **What is the root of these five things (the "germ" he talks about)? What do we need to do to foster this root in our lives individually and as a church?**

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

A love for God and a love for others will lead to 5 distinct things that go together. Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions **Why do these five go together? For example, why will there be a culture of raising up elders and leaders if men, women, boys, girls follow Jesus and teach others to follow Jesus?**

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Underlying Assumptions/Goals in Adult SS for church as whole:

1. **We must shift our focus from personal maturity and growth to building healthy churches.**
2. **We must focus on the roots, not merely the fruit.**

"SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH" APPLIED PT. 9

CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

IF we do NOTHING else together, the Collective People of God must:

I. **Worship God Together.** Romans 15:5-6
II. **Grow Individually and Corporately with a Growth that Comes from God.** Eph. 4:15-16
III. **Protect/Defend the Name of God—His character and Eternal Purposes.** II Tim. 1:13-14
IV. **Own the People in the Particular Expression of the Body of Christ where God has Placed you.** I Cor. 12:18, Eph. 4:16
V. **Spread the Glory of God** Hab. 2:14, I Pet. 2:9

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

We have looked at public worship services, relationships, growth, culture, now finally, What would need to be lifted up/allowed if want to build healthy churches with strong roots in faithful service?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What IS service? What do we usually think of as service in the church?

- Practical necessities to worship
- Ministries (roles)
- Serve- should be other than you – willing to do whatever
- In-church, outside
- Talents – given by God – He decides where & how
- Giving, discipling, peacemaking, conversation, personal care – are all service
- Sacrifice - time, preferences, time displaying what has been given/honed
- Normally, we find gifts, plug people in
- Scripture calls us to stimulate others to good deeds
- Prayer
- Service demands patience

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What does Numbers 4:1ff, 16-19, 22ff, 29ff., Romans 12 do for guiding our service inside the church?

- Temporary, so repetitive, specific
- Assigned
- Leaders/ Servants
- Prescribed order w/ serious consequences
- Deviating from responsibilities brings consequences
- Part of whole – part is NOT whole
- Show up (be on duty, be where God is working)
- Called to do (reasonable service) NOT what you get out of it
- Rom. 12 – must be personally applied and held accountable
- Balance – all service tied to Rom. 12:1-2

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What does Numbers I Peter 4:7-11 do for guiding our service inside the church?

- V.7 - In the sphere of prayer (communion)
- V.11 - God words/strength for Godly service
- V. 1 - Arm yourself with the same purpose as Christ – suffer, you are in a dangerous situation, pay attention
- V. 12 - Conflict & our response test our faithfulness in service
- Need character to head this way – this character must come from yielding to the Spirit

- What causes Burnout:
  - Self-sufficiency
  - Earth bound goals
  - Overwhelmed by world
  - Identity with present circumstances rather than faithfully owning our part in God's Work
  - Disenchanted from wrong expectations (i.e. repetition of ordinary)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Through the lens of these two goals, what were some of the changes hoped for by intentionally changing the goals during our *Future Grace* study leading to an 8 year study of that book? (longer studies over the years preceding)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Philippians 1:27

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, [2] make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1–2

New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

Vacation Video on Revival vs. Revivalism
October 23, 2022

Phil Newton—starting 18:50—27:13

1. What were the dangers Phil Newton described, and from where did they arise? Revivalism can be very moralistic—but what happens if we feel over-focus on moralism? Allow everything to go as say only "heart" matters – we are in middle of this now; Being Christian focusing on what do/don't do;
2. 23:11 why lead to pastoral burnout and job hopping? Never satisfied b/c never see what seems to be success—keep trying to come up w clever ideas
3. how does pastoral burnout and job hopping effect us all?
4. Where are we all part of the problem and what would be part of the solution?

Start Here—Pastor Phil Newton talking with Jonathan Leeman and Mark Dever about Revivalism vs. Revival—work of God versus work we orchestrate—wrong focus leads to moralism—ie. Few weeks ago, I gave example of being careful as look around and make judgments about other's raising kids—don't watch merely behavior of parents/children, focus on HOW they/we got there; what motivates change, drives change in behavior; watch for moralism apart from change from Christ—that is paganism (when look at fruits, look for right roots/source, not merely fruits); if don't get this, then YOUR growth focused on you, not from God; will disciple not only children, but also adults wrongly in here/out there—SAME gospel-less moralism—NOT work of God; if we WANT gospel fruit here, must think carefully of what would show Rom. 8 life from the Spirit--not MORALISM/arm-bending/fruit of just beating on outside; Must have Col. 2:6-7 course--as you have received, so walk, "being built up in Him and established in your faith, JUST as you were instructed and overflowing with gratitude." THEN seek gospel fruit out THERE; (the Mission: talked about VBS declining because of society—but decline also rooted in church/ Christians NOT doing hard work of evangelism and discipleship IN OWN LIFE, inside life of church that just spoke about--which means MUST interact with people, keep going until touching soul; THIS kind of soul care inside, then outside as you interact with others will allow VBS to grow, but we have to have intention w people around us that BY-PRODUCT is them bringing kids to VBS; focus NOT VBS, "church growth," but gospel life/living which spreads glory of God--there WILL be gospel fruit wherever GOSPEL seed goes out (parable of soils, mustard seed); whole different view of interaction with people—longer process; don't just say Jesus, depending on time w them, build world where Jesus is answer—is God a part of their world—if not, must start there; what God do they speak of? One who goes with them—why? what does He do? Why does He do it? If don't think through these things, then just left with hoping people fall out of the sky b/c they like our cookies and personalities and nice cushy green chairs—sound tough? Too much? This path IS tough—Jesus said it would be

5. What are the signs of success given by Phil Newton towards the end of his talk?

26:08-26:25 real sign of genuine conversion is persevering in the faith—Garner Spring???? Quote in Ian Murray--can imitate a lot but not perseverance

6. To the extent that this is true, where should we focus our spiritual energies?

On depending on faithfulness of Lord--

7. What does this practically look like so that it is not merely more dependence only on our wills/effort?

Where focus rather than what we get

8. What did you Expect pp. 126-129, Prayer, pp. 65-67—give me thoughts/verses that go w this?

Drew Hodge—27:13-35:18

1. We agree that shouldn't have to be so professional/perfect, but where do we undermine that agreement?
2. How do we protect from the danger of stimulating human affections rather than seeking the supernatural change which produce genuine affections?

Participate versus consume

Ben Lacey 35:18—44:43

1. **While we don't "walk an aisle" or focus on "praying a prayer," where do you think we can apply using right biblical commands for wrong focuses of repentance and faith?** (here's what you need to do if you want to be right w God . . .

Talking about differences in affections—affection can't just be for "doing better," "being a better me," "sorry to get it right" but awe, reverence of God that demands my full attention—singleness of heart shown by life responses—is HE the focus or my story—do I show that His words have lasting value and direction, OR some experience like my own

2. Ben Lacey talks about "carrying our cross" leading to fruit that is cross-shaped. What does he mean? What would this include?

—lasting, eternal, NOT from what earth values

3. **If this "cross-shaped fruit" is lasting and eternal, what are the implications for us if we've focused on other fruit? (First negatively, ie. What does this mean for former "effort"/fruit? What will our feelings/life look like as we address the change in focus to get "cross-shaped fruit"?)** Disenchanting, feels like NO HOPE, will NEVER get to right

fruit if our fruit isn't cross-shaped—ie. Instead of the life of Christ, it seems like we will DIE trying to get to cross-shaped fruit; so will feel wrong—opposite of Christ; unnerving, like lost, not sure which way is up, etc.

4. **If this "cross-shaped fruit" is lasting and eternal, what are the implications for us if we've focused on other fruit?** Positively, (moving forward), how do we live while we change our focus? What will our feelings/life look like as we make right steps to change the focus to get "cross-shaped fruit? Where should we find hope, life?)
5. He said that if we want to see revival coming from the Spirit of God, we must preach the Word and pray. What should be preached? Mentioned 4 things: God's holiness, man's sinfulness, Christ's righteousness, and then a call to carry the cross. **Where was the hope for John Bunyan when he was grieved by his sin?** Bunyan grieved by sin: hope--My righteousness is in heaven; **What keeps us from focusing there when we feel the weight of our sin and what is the result?** Looked at this in youth group w prodigal son—end up w elder brother syndrome—instead, where is focus at the end? Father's joy—look of repentance brought father's joy, look at merit brought brokenness between father and elder son and elder son and brother and NO JOY; Wrong focus when on our decision--Put focus on JESUS—HIS work/worth, not my own—

44:43-48:25 – group question/answer

1. **What thoughts cross your mind about our individual and corporate responsibility with the Lord's Table and Baptism? (not merely what is the problem, but how should the definitions of these studied and strengthened actually promote healthy churches AND protect against nominalism and unholiness)**

Ill-fruit of revivalism: baptism and Lord's Supper—can't just let everyone get baptized; DON'T LOWER THE BAR or you gave them passport to get into all the churches – use all reasonable means—can't stop it all—

--speed and numbers in name of evangelism/conversion can lead to downplaying other ingredients

--unbiblical methods will produce unbiblical results

--talking about sexual abuse so much b/c just dumped report about it—WATCH dangers of throwing stones—this is a big problem in society INCLUDING mess when pastor's do it; focus NOT merely that all pastor's untrustworthy, but that Christian's have been sloppy all over—personal holiness—we are NOT part of SBC, so listening in on their conversation—must think of how we've gotten to place where words/relationships mean little—NO standard holds WHILE look for perfection/safety/justice/forgiveness, etc. from everyone

58:00-end Mark Dever

Positively (looking for way to move forward, not just tearing things apart)

1. A love for God and a love for others will lead to 5 distinct things that go together. Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions **What is the root of these five things (the "germ" he talks about)? What do we need to do to foster this root in our lives individually and as a church?**
2. **Why will there be a culture of raising up elders and leaders if men, women, boys, girls follow Jesus?**