

something very spectacular will happen which would confirm the message, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Pentecostal day. (Acts 2:17-19)

We should not forget the fact that even the Son of God did not start his ministry until he was baptized with the Holy Spirit in the Jordan River. (Isaiah 42:1; John 1:33; Acts 10:38) **The ministry of Jesus was in connection with the Holy Spirit.** “When the Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,” “he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” The characteristic of Jesus’ ministry is in the actuality of the authority he claimed. When David sinned, he must have remembered how the Spirit of God left Saul. He prayed, “do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.” Saul did not know that the LORD had left him. (Judges 16:20; 1 Sam. 16:14) The Holy Spirit is the everlasting God. He clothes us with the power of God. The book of Acts records and testifies to us even now with what great power the apostles testified to the resurrection of Jesus, and how the Holy Spirit was working through them.

The Pentecostal day continues until our Lord comes again

From Jesus, Oakridge church also received this same command; “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.” (Mark 16:15-18)

We already heard with what love God has loved us. We also learned of His calling and the hope He has put in our hearts. However, the Lord told us there is still something else we need. You will **receive power ONLY when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.** The Holy Spirit is what we need the most. Just like our body breathes continually in order to live, our spirit needs to take in the Spirit of God without ceasing. (1 Cor. 2:10, 12, 13) The Holy Spirit is our life! Unless we first receive the power of the Holy Spirit and cooperate with Him, we cannot give glory to God by witnessing to our one and only Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of Man and the Son of God. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. This gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Amen.

Let us pray. Father God, we pray that you may fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we can obediently fulfill the commission Jesus gave to us. Put your fire in our hearts and renovate us. Cause your Great revival. I pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

OAKRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 4, 2017

The Head of the Church is Christ

Joel 2:28-32; Colossians 1:12-22

Rev. Susan Lee

The truth Christ’s church proclaims is great and glorious

While Jesus was on earth, one day he asked his disciples. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." To Peter’s confession of faith Jesus replied, "on this rock (of your faith confessed) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” He also promised to give this church the keys of the kingdom of heaven; “whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must suffer and be killed, and be raised to life. He warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. (Matt 16:13-20) After that, his glorification (crucifixion) brought in the birth of Christ’s Church.

The church’s existence is entirely dependent upon Christ. “He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form and in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col.1:15-19, 2:2, 9) Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith, and therefore we should preach none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God as the early Churches did. (Heb. 12:2; Gal. 1:7-8; Col. 1:28)

Gospel preaches to individuals first

“In the past God overlooked our ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.” (Acts 17:30) “He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” (Col. 1:13) We need to be free from our sinful nature, the world, and the devil. In other words, we need to be rescued from the original sin, the condemnation of the law and the power of darkness. The devil still tries to turn the orderly creation of God into chaos and blinds the mind of unbelieving people, keeping them in confusion as he did in the past. (Gen. 3:1-6; 2Cor. 4:4-5) In the story of God’s creation, there were not any thorns or thistles mentioned. But since the fall of Adam and Eve, they are around us all the time. These days we hear many different voices around the issue of human sexuality. Some say that some people were born in a certain condition, and we must accept them as they claim to be. However, the word of God is quite simple and clear about this issue. (Gen. 2:18-25; Rom. 1:18-32) God is love. Also, He is righteous and true. As He guides us in all His truth, we also uphold His truth and cannot compromise ourselves with any rebellious ideas or philosophes that set up against the truth of God.

We are called to love, but are also called to love responsibly by admonishing and leading our beloved ones to respond and live according to the truth of God. (1Cor. 14:33) The world is not capable of fulfilling this responsibility. The church is supposed to be the voice that restores people back to God, while the ruler of the kingdom of the air drives people to live according to the pattern of this world instead of following the discipline of God by blinding their understanding and keeping them in futile life styles.

Futility is bent on decay, not meeting the intended purpose, not functioning and therefore bringing no fulfillment. This phrase in the bible “bondage to decay” pictures a destination of destruction and death through progressive physical distortion, becoming twisted and corrupt. When separated from the life of God, people are darkened in their understanding and give themselves over to sensuality and eventually destruction. (Eph. 4:17, 19, 22) God wants us to live - not be dead in darkness. From ‘the sea of this wicked world’ the church is the current time ark that saves people. (Gen. 3:15; 1 John 3:8)

“The soul who sins is the one who will die.” (Ezk. 18:4) “The price of sin is death.” (Rom. 6:23) Through the bible, God has been telling us the truth and leading us to life. But sadly, this world has turned its back against God bringing disaster and confusion as a result. This world is under the wrath of God, and more churches are closing and the number of their members are decreasing.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-18) You are my witness that today I asked you to give your ear to the warnings of God in the bible, so that you are not unprepared for that day. Every man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement. (Heb. 9:27) We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ and give an account of ourselves to God how we used the gifts of God, and whether we lived for the glory of God or the glory of ourselves. (Rev. 20:11-15) “Every eye will see me, even those who pierced me!”

Does your reality include the day when you will face God sitting on His judgement seat? Have you repented? Have you ever faced the fact that you are totally helpless even as you realize that you are lost, condemned, and dead, yet not able to rescue yourself from the path to hell? Do you know that the bible speaks about the lake of fire, the final destination of the devil who has been deceiving you? (Rev. 20:10) It is our Lord Jesus who has the keys of death and hades, who is seated at the right hand of God, and who has given the church the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

God so loved the world that He opened one way that saves us

“He has come and has redeemed his people.” (Luke 1:68) “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8) On our behalf, Jesus took all our sins and shame, and paid the price through his death. He fulfilled the righteousness of God and the requirements of the law on behalf of us so that God freely and willingly forgives us who are in Christ.

The only way to receive God’s forgiveness and salvation is through believing this message, the faith in the Son of God. Jesus became a man to represent us to God. The incarnate God who lived among us was tried and tempted in every way. While living in human flesh, he manifested his divinity through miracles and power, paid the entire price for our redemption, and ultimately defeated death on the cross. (Rom. 6:9; Heb. 2:14-17) He was able to do this only because he is man and God at the same time. He is the only one who can be our redeemer, who can offer God the perfect sacrifice, his own blood. After Jesus was resurrected, he ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God. Now, as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary, he is interceding for us through the Holy Spirit who dwells in each saint. And soon, he will come again as the Judge and the Savior depending on the relationship each man has with Him here on earth. (Acts 1:8-11; Rev. 1:7)

Our salvation is the work of the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood.” (Col. 1:19-20) Our salvation is God’s initiative, plan, and will. It is God the Father who wills and works for our salvation in Christ. It is God the Father who was pleased to see us stand in God’s presence through the work of reconciliation. The Son fulfilled the will of God through his pure obedience and sent us the Holy Spirit from the Father. Then the Holy Spirit opens our eyes and helps us appropriate the completed works of the Son so that we can be presented to God holy and blameless.

Glorifying the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is the core of the Gospel

Just before Our Lord Jesus went on the cross, he prayed for us like this. “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent... My prayer is that you protect them from the evil one... Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17) Let us give glory to God with our whole heart through bringing continual praise and thanksgiving to God. (Psalm 50:23; Heb. 13:15) God confirmed His love for us through Jesus Christ. And Jesus, by his blood on the cross, has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father.

Today is the day of Pentecost

Before his ascension, Jesus gave his disciples this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised. Wait until you are baptized with the Holy Spirit. And when you are clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit, then go and be my witness." (Acts 1:1-8; John 15:26-27) Then the Lord baptized them with the Holy Spirit pouring His power upon them on the Pentecostal day as promised. “In the last days I will pour out my Spirit on all people... The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:39) The point of Joel’s prophesy is that Christ will come, and when His Gospel is preached