

If you know, you know - Week 2

Jim Burgen

May 29, 2022

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Matthew 7:21-23, 10:32-34, 38-39; 1 Timothy 1:15-17, 2:8-10, 6:17-19; 2 Timothy 2:11-14, 19.

// Message Summary

This Sunday, Pastor Jim Burgen brought the second message of the series titled, *If you know, you know*. This series is centered on Paul's pastoral letters to his mentee, Timothy, and his use of "trustworthy sayings" - short insights which communicate true and good advice to us as we walk out our lives in obedience to God. This week, Jim reminded us that following Jesus is an all-in commitment: we must be on a daily journey to produce the fruit of a follower of Christ. We need to constantly be reviewing and examining our lives to see if, and how, our faith is making a difference in our daily lives, and doing so in a way that lines up with Jesus being our true Lord and King. In particular, Jim spoke about three areas that Paul addressed: money, sex and power. Our actions in these three areas - not just our ideas or intentions - are evidence of a changed heart which belongs to Jesus.

// Biblical and Historical Context

Paul's letters to Timothy were written to encourage the younger pastor as he led churches in Ephesus. Ephesus was a thriving capital city of one of the Roman provinces in Asia Minor (modern-day western Turkey). The prosperous city was located in a fertile valley, near the mouth of the Cayster River, and was connected to many major Roman cities by a series of trade roads. As with most important urban areas, Ephesus was the focal point for many spiritual and religious belief systems. Paul's faithful preaching of the gospel in Ephesus caused many people to come to Christ, and eventually a church was built for the local Christian congregation. As leader of this church, Timothy was tasked with guiding new Christians as they committed their lives to Jesus as both Savior and Lord - and lived their lives in accordance with His Lordship.

// Community Questions

Would you rather, a) work a morally questionable job that makes a lot of money or, b) work a job that helps a lot of people but doesn't make much money?

// Discussion Questions

1. Together, read 2 Timothy 2:11-17. Share something in this passage that you found interesting.

2. What does it mean to:

- "die" with Jesus?
- "endure" with Jesus?
- "disown" Jesus?
- be "faithless" towards Jesus?

3. Pastor Jim said:

The world has a lot of rich people.
There doesn't seem to be a lot of generous people.

The world has a lot of strong, beautiful, sexy people.
The world doesn't seem to have a lot of examples of long-term intimacy or purity.

The world has a lot of people bent on controlling everybody around them.
The world doesn't seem to have many people whose mission in life is to serve others.

How would you respond to these observations?

4. How would your life look different if you used your money, sex and power in a manner more consistent with Christ's intentions?
5. Why does Jesus care about how we use our money, sex and power? What does this tell you about Him?

// Challenge

Review question 4, above. What steps do you need to take this week to bring one of those areas into alignment with Christ's intentions? How will you increase your generosity, pursue sexual purity and/or serve the powerless?