

Friday March 4, 2010
Sermon – Your Life Does Not Belong To You

Worship

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Majesty
- More than all the World

Announcements: ([Elbib Post Newsletter](#))

- Family Camp
- Open Mic Night

Prayer:

- Johnny Reid
- Families of Helen Smith & Patrick Berkery

Communion: (to follow message today)

Message Outline:

Paul in Athens:

- The Apostle Paul was “killing time” in Athens waiting for his teammates
- He noticed many idols in the city of Athens
- There was even one idol “to an unknown God.” (show picture of idol)
- This was just in case they missed one.
- Paul became distressed by the idolatry all around Him
- Finally he got his chance to speak at the Areopagus – the big meeting of philosophers.

Acts 17:19-34

- He used their own idol to preach to them & some were converted
- He also declared – verse 25 – He gives all men life, breath & everything else
- Verse 28 – in Him we live, move and have our being
- Verse 29 – we are His offspring
- Verse 31 – He set a day to judge the world

Our Life And Everything We Are Comes From God

- This week we had 2 funerals in the church
- These times have a way of setting you deep in thought
- I was reading from Ecclesiastes
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-2
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

We Forget That God Authored Us – and We Forget that our Lives are a Gift

- We start thinking that we own our own lives
- We start to believe that we have the right to control our own destiny
- When we think like this we fall into the trap of the evil one.

The World Feeds This Lie

- Companies market to this lie and it works (just type “best for you” into google”

Example of the Way People Think – It’s My Life by Bon Jovi

This ain't a song for the broken-hearted
No silent prayer for the faith-departed
I ain't gonna be just a face in the crowd
You're gonna hear my voice
When I shout it out loud

It's my life
It's now or never
I ain't gonna live forever
I just want to live while I'm alive
(It's my life)
My heart is like an open highway
Like Frankie said
I did it my way
I just wanna live while I'm alive
It's my life

This is for the ones who stood their ground
For Tommy and Gina who never backed down
Tomorrow's getting harder make no mistake
Luck ain't even lucky
Got to make your own breaks

It’s This Way of Thinking Which Leads to Grief

- When you are at work your boss can tell you what to do
- Most people don’t complain
- They consider that a fair trade – their time for someone else’s money
- However, imagine a complete stranger starts telling you what to do

You are minding your own business sitting in your lounge room watching TV

- Someone you have never seen before just walks in your front door
- They walk into your kitchen
- They open your fridge and get out a nice cold drink – leave and don’t say thank you
- You would be indignant because it’s your house, your fridge, your cold drink and they have no right.

God feels this way about His Possessions

- We are His creation
- He gave us life
- He made us in His image
- But we have this idea in our minds that “it’s our life” we will make choices to suit ourselves.
- We were not created to live that way – it actually makes us unhappy when we do

- God could just as easily get upset as you would if someone started abusing your property.

A Better Illustration – Tenants in a Rental Property

- Marie and I have a few rental properties that the Lord has blessed us with
- We have legal binding agreements with other people who live in those properties
- The houses belong to us, but we are letting them use them on certain conditions.
- One of the conditions is that the house is kept in a tidy, and clean state and nothing is damaged.
- There are legal consequences if they break our agreement

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- The Bible is clear – we are not our own – we were bought with a price
- Our bodies are God’s temple – we have an obligation to live for Christ
- It is preposterous to presume that we can control our own destiny

There are Big and Clear Implications if This is True

- Firstly it means we don’t complain when things happen that we don’t like
- This is because it’s not our life to worry about
- Secondly it means we have an obligation to consult God on every matter and follow His lead.
- This means our life is the life He wants us to live – and this is pleasing to God.

Even Christ set an Example for US

- Philippians 2:5-11
- God became less than God – he became a human
- He actually HAD rights – but chose not to have them

In our Case We Don’t Have Rights

- But we cling to them
- If we would follow the example of Christ then at minimum we would do what He did
- But a fitting comparison would be to give up your rights to be a human
- To become an animal – say a dog

If We Would Be Honest With Ourselves

- We would admit that Everything we have belongs to Him
- Our time
- Our Career
- Our Retirement
- Our Investments & Planning for the Future
- Our Money & Budget
- Our Service
- Our Family & Friends

[Youtube Video – Lordship](#)

- Lately I'm emphasizing God's big important place
- We either live for what HE wants or what WE want

It is Time for an Examination of Our Lives

- This calls for brutal honesty
- A Willingness to Look
- A List of Things to Look For (I'm working on it)

In the Days and Weeks Ahead

- We are taking a journey closer to Jesus
- I'm inviting you to come with me
- We are going to do a spiritual inventory of our lives
- We are going to seek the Lord
- We are going to begin praying in a new way
- We are going to do some new things as God leads
- I invite you to come along – it is going to be challenging.

Communion

- Surrender in receiving the elements