

ONE message. people. mission.



The Place of Pleasure

Acts 12:24, 13:1-3

Overview

- **The undercurrent of all people in the world is Pleasure**
 - People get both divorced and married for this reason
 - They accept jobs & quite jobs for this reason
 - They have children and don't have children for this reason
 - Everyone makes decisions that they think will ultimately fuel their personal pleasure
 - Often, people aren't willing to endure difficulty to get true pleasure
 - They choose what is easiest to get short bursts of pleasure - we call this convenient pleasure
 - Yet convenient pleasure never fully satisfies
 - What we all truly want at the bottom of it all is True Pleasure
 - True Pleasure is not cheap
 - We were made for Pleasure...pleasures of God...our Maker
- **The Gospel Answers Your Deepest Desires**
 - Genesis 1.31: God created said it was "Very Good"
 - Since He made it and deemed it Very Good He must be the source of Good
 - He must be the source of what it means to be truly pleasurable
 - Adam & Eve look beyond God for pleasure by wanting to be like Him
 - Sin enters the world
 - Nature of Sin is looking beyond God for Pleasure by rebelling against Him and seeking to ultimately find pleasure in self
 - Christ overcame sin by defeating it on the Cross by offering His sinless life & raising from the dead
 - For all those that repent and believe that can behold the source of Joy in Christ (2 Cor. 4.6)
 - This is at the heart of Christ's coming: John 17.13
 - The Gospel was not convenient pleasure...it was Costly
 - Yet through it we can access the depths of the Pleasures of God by His costly sacrifice
 - The word of God increasing & multiplying is the increasing and multiplying of those who find Joy in their God
 - Paul & Barnabas are sent out by the church to tell others how they can be satisfied in God by repenting and believing the Gospel
 - Forming churches to gather that they may delight in their Maker
- **Vision of Restoration Church: The Place of Pleasure**
 - Every member is a Broken Down House

- Placed before the Architect (Christ) can be refashioned into the home they were built to be
- In so doing they can tell the stories of Him who Restored them to their former glory
- Restoration Church's Vision is simple: Focus on people, point them to Christ via His word that they may behold the Glorious Riches of Christ, who is our true joy
 - Everything we do serves to support the spread of this message of Hope

Overview

Discussion starter: What do people often pursue for pleasure? How do these ultimately fail? What does it say when we are pleased with these pursuits of pleasure?

1. Where is it you see in your own life, the pursuit of Pleasure/Joy?
2. Read Acts 12:24-13:3. What do these verses have to do with the advancement of Pleasure?
3. Discuss how the Spirit is pointing to Christ in this passage (not himself).
4. What is the place of the church in this passage?
5. Why would Restoration Church not focus on building new structures and focus more on people?
6. In 12:24, what's the significance of reading "the Word of God increased"? Why do you think Restoration Church places such a primacy on the Word of God to "restore" us to the original glory of our creation?
7. Why such a simple "vision"?
8. Could you articulate this to others? If so, how would you do it based off this message?
9. Discuss the differences between Convenient Pleasure and True Pleasure and the place of the Gospel and the church in going after True Pleasure.
10. How and why should the church be called the Place of Pleasure?
11. (For all Members): How will you help in advances the Pleasures of God with one another and those that are pursuing Convenient Pleasures (non-believers) around you in 2012?

Accountability Question: What are the places in your life where you are pursuing Convenient Pleasures by sacrificing the easy for the deep and abiding joys of God? How can Restoration Church help in this? What should you "put off" and then what should you "put on"?