

Going After Those Thoughts

Hopefully we are all gearing up for a great year in 2010! We want this year to be the year where significant things happen in our congregation and in our personal lives. This can only happen if we make simple but important decisions as a congregation and as individuals. As Brian taught Wednesday evening these are not a long list of decisions but rather a simple few decisions that will be our focus throughout the year. This year I will celebrate my 55th year of life! Whew, that's a long time! This year I will also celebrate my 37th year as a disciple of Jesus. Whew, I can remember thinking that it would be great to make it through the year! Praise God for His mercy, strength and kindness. This means that I have gone through 36 New Years as a disciple and have heard a myriad of lessons on "starting over", "everything is new", "change", "transformation" and "new beginnings". If we don't guard our hearts and our minds the worldly, sinful reaction to these topics is "Yeah, yeah I have heard these before!" or "Whatever!" Instead of making decisions to change we make decisions to remain the same! Whether we like it or not, in the Kingdom and out of the Kingdom, change is a constant. We are getting better, transforming more into the image of Christ or we are getting worse, reverting back to our faithless, self reliant way of living. All of these come as a result of decisions we make. As we age, and go through many experiences as a disciple the real battle ground is in the heart and the mind. The question needs to be asked! Are you going after those things in your heart and mind that stop the transformation process? When was the last time you called some of those thoughts and responses SIN! Here are a few thoughts we need to go after!

1. Cynicism. Satan desperately wants us to quit believing and trying. If he can defeat us enough times, he finds no greater joy than getting us to become cynics. Skepticism and doubt do nothing to change anybody or anything. Refuse to be cynical and pursue

faith! Hebrews 11 is still in the Bible!

2. Self Reliance. The progression of becoming a disciple after our baptism is to learn how to be more and more God reliant. Honestly, we find no greater joy and God finds no greater happiness than when He sees we are simply reliant upon Him. On the other hand, Satan finds just as much joy when we gradually go from being God reliant to self reliant. If decisions aren't made to stop the trend we can actually go through all the "Christian motions" and be totally reliant on ourselves. Prayerlessness, no time in God's word, worry, running after worldly pursuits are all symptoms of self reliance.
3. Indifference. Do the things that upset Jesus upset you! If not, why not! Is it okay to be around people who call themselves disciples yet they talk faithlessly. Think it's okay? Go back and study Jesus. Think it is okay to be around people day in and day out and care nothing for their souls? You better go back and read about Jesus. Indifference and spiritual numbness are toxic! They really are a cancer of the soul! We must always fight to care and especially care about the things that Jesus cares about!
4. Comparing self to others rather than Jesus. On any given day we can always find someone worse off physically and spiritually than we are. Those comparisons can lull us to spiritual death. We must fix our eyes on Jesus. We must remind ourselves that we are disciples of Jesus. Whatever he does, we want to do! Whatever he teaches, we want to practice and teach. Our goal is to become like him not better than the world.
5. Honestly, I just don't want to change! Change is always uncomfortable. Getting stuck in our ways is not an admirable trait. Paul said "No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." (1 Cor. 9:27) Let it never be said that we are unwilling to change!

It is the small simple decisions that will affect us all this year. It will affect us as a church and it will affect us as individuals. What thoughts are you going after? -KW

Congregational Workshop

On Friday, January 22, 2010 we will have a meeting of all the Bible talk leaders at the church building at 7:00pm. On Saturday, January 23 will have two sessions. Session one is for the men. It starts @9:00A! Session two is for the women. It starts at 1:00P! The goal is to end the men's session in time so that the parents can swap childcare responsibilities. Sunday, January 24, we will have a celebration service with a pot luck following. Let's make the necessary plans to attend the workshop and let's bring friends on Sunday to worship!

Starting Saturday, January 30, 2010 a marriage tune up series will begin using the "Fireproof" movie and "Love Dare Book". There are handouts in the back of the auditorium for more details and information is also available on the church's web site.

CONTRIBUTION

Budget	\$7150.00
Contribution	\$8456.41
Dr. in Bogotá	\$80.00
Special Missions	\$110.00
Music/Media	\$447.50
Local Benevolence	\$0.00

Along with our regular contribution we will be taking up a contribution on the first Sunday of each month for our Music/Media Ministry. On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays we will collect money to support the Dr. that serves the poor at the Hope Clinic in Bogotá. The month that we have a fifth Sunday we will take a collection that goes towards local benevolence.
Sean Finch

Louisville Church of Christ Purpose Statement
The purpose of the Louisville Church of Christ is to bring people to Jesus and membership in his family—by connecting them with a vibrant, spirit-led church family that reflects the diversity of our metro Louisville community—to help them grow in Christ-like maturity and to become equipped for their personal ministries in the church and their life's missions in the world—in order to glorify God and advance the cause of Christ.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Midweek Service
Wednesday, 1/13/10
7:00 pm

Congregational Workshop
Saturday, 1/23/10
Men 9 am
Women 1 pm

Marriage Class
Saturdays, 6 pm
1/30 through 3/13/10

LOUISVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
1201 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203-4002
Phone: 502-636-3211
Email: lcc@louisvilledisciples.org
Website: www.louisvilledisciples.org

Ministry Staff
Keith and Jayne West
Brian and Shann Perkins

Consensus Leadership Group
John and Betsy Hackman
Sean and Mindi Kirklin
West, Perkins

Office Manager
Toni Waddell