



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, 6/23/2022

Scripture: 1 Corinthians

TITLE: 1 Corinthians – Live Out Your Faith

Irrelevant & outdated. Those are two common words used to describe the Bible. This sentiment is not just from non-believers. Many believers believe this as well. But when people tell me this, I ask them one question. Have you read the Bible, or are you assuming this? If you think the Bible is outdated and irrelevant, just look at the book of 1 Corinthians.

The Book of 1 Corinthians was written by the apostle Paul. He was writing it from Ephesus during his third missionary journey. So Paul is writing this around 55-56 A.D.

The Corinthian church was a mess. It had great roots, but it was planted in a pagan culture. Just like today, the church is surrounded by decay and is constantly pressured to cave.

The city of Corinth was a bustling city of commerce. It was a city of 700,000 people. The majority of citizens were slaves. The city was full of entertainment, religion, and debauchery.

The book was written to answer questions raised by the church, such as how to handle divisions in the church, how to deal with sexual immorality by members of the church, marital issues, public worship, spiritual gifts, the resurrection of the dead, and tithes. Simply put, it's a practical guide for Christian living in a fallen and decaying culture.

So what's the main thing from 1 Corinthians? It's living out your faith. In the 90s, there became this notion that your public life is separate from your private life. Well, this is not true for the Christian. We are Christians. Therefore, we should live like it in the marketplace, in the neighborhood, at church, and at home.

Many people think that because of God's free gift of grace, we have a license to sin. People believe this lie that we can or should live different lives. Well, Paul wrote this in 1 Corinthians 6:12, (CSB),

“Everything is permissible for me,’ but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible for me,’ but I will not be mastered by anything.”

And then Paul continues in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20:

“Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.”

We were bought at a very high price. Jesus Christ shed His blood for us. We should not take this lightly.

And if that reminder wasn't enough, Paul challenges us to consider the power, the wonder, and the impact of the Gospel and the resurrection of Christ.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5,

“For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.”

Paul would continue to say He appeared to over 500 people, including James and himself.

And then, in verse 1 Corinthians 15:17, he uncovers the lynchpin of Christianity: “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

Friend, Jesus Christ lives. Because of that, our fear of death is gone. Our chains to sin are shattered. We are free to live for Christ in His power.

So I encourage you, let's live out our faith in the culture and wherever we go. When we do, we will win the day.