ROOTED

In October, we took some time to consider why we as a church strive to ground everything we do in the Word of God through a weeklong event called Rooted.

We looked at the importance of God’s Word and why our worship services are built around the Bible. From John 5:18-24, we saw that the Word of God reveals Jesus Christ. Jesus is our God, Jesus is our life, and Jesus is our hope. There is no salvation apart from him. This is the message of the Scriptures. There is no other place or person that gives life. We must go to Christ. And we saw that it is the Word of God, and His Word alone, that reveals Christ. In all this, we were able see the importance of keeping the Word of God central in our worship of Him.

Why do we sing God's Word, pray God's Word, read God's Word, and preach God's Word in our worship services?

SING THE WORD

Ephesians 5:15-21 reminds us why we sing God’s Word. We sing because our singing fills us with the Spirit. Our singing enriches our hearts and fixes our minds on the hope, joy and love we have in Christ. Not only that, but our singing helps us to resist evil. Singing helps us focus our minds on Christ, and as we do this, it is only natural that we will resist the temptations that come before us. And, to add to this, we sing because God commands us to sing. The command to sing is the most frequently repeated command in all the Bible. Our Lord delights in our singing to Him, and so we sing for His glory and for His honor. We also sing because this is what Jesus did. After the Last Supper, both Matthew and Mark record that Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn. Christ sings, and so we sing to imitate our Lord and Savior. And finally, we sing because our singing honors Jesus. We sing to Jesus Christ, because He is worthy of it.

Protect the time you have to sing with your church. There are roughly 20 minutes of your week set aside to sing to Jesus with your church. That’s all. Twenty minutes. In a whole week. So, protect that time. Kids need it. Ministry leaders and volunteers need it. New Christians need it. Mature Christians need it. Whatever you do, don’t miss it. Vigorously guard those precious few moments that you get to sing with your church. Protect that time because singing isn’t just some warm-up for the sermon. We need to sing.
PRAY THE WORD

1 Timothy 2:1-8 reminds us why we pray God’s Word. We pray God’s Word because through our prayers, lives are transformed. People come to know Christ as we pray for them, not only for those near to us, but for those around the world. It’s an amazing thing to know that God uses our prayers to open the Gospel truth to others we have never seen or even met. Furthermore, we pray God’s Word because through our prayers, the Gospel moves forward. In the book of Acts, the early church started out with a small group of people. But the Gospel spread throughout all the land, even all over the world. And we see today that the church is still thriving. This is because of the prayers of God’s people. As the early Christians prayed, the Gospel moved forward. And as we pray as a church, the Gospel will continue to move forward. And so, we pray God’s Word.

READ THE WORD

1 Timothy 4:13 reminds us of the importance of reading God’s Word. God commands Timothy to “devote himself to the public reading of the Scriptures.” This is not a suggestion or a small bit of advice. This is a command from Scripture. And this is a command not only for the early church, but this is a command for us today as well. And so, we read this Word. Further, we read God’s Word in our worship services because it is the Word of God. The Bible is the voice of God. Through it we hear His voice. When we open the Bible and read from it, it communicates that God is here, that God is in charge, and that God is actively working out His plan. And finally, we read the Word of God because it is a means of grace. And through it, God converts sinners and makes them holy. We have the words of eternal life held in this book, and through the reading of God’s Word, people hear, and hearts are transformed. For these reasons, we read the Word of God in our worship services.

At The Orchard, we stand for the reading of God’s Word during our worship services. Why do we do this? Standing for the public reading of Scripture honors God’s Word, communicates to the Lord’s enemy and reminds us of Christ’s salvific work.

PREACH THE WORD

We preach God’s Word in our worship services because God has spoken. God has spoken helpfully, perfectly, beautifully, authoritatively, and graciously the awesome power of the Gospel. God has spoken in all these ways the good news of His Son Jesus Christ, and so we preach so that all might hear the wonderful word of God. In 2 Timothy 4:2, the Apostle Paul charges Timothy to preach the word, so that’s what we do. Not only that, but we preach God’s Word because, through His Word, God gives us strength. As we are burdened with doubt, enveloped by discouragement, and exhausted by sin, we see that it is the Word of God that gives us strength. As Christ is proclaimed, His truth cuts through our doubt, His compassion lifts us out of discouragement, and His resurrection frees us from the power of indwelling sin. Moreover, we preach Christ, because it is through the preaching of God’s Word that the those who are lost will come to know Christ. As people hear the Word of God preached, the Holy Spirit works in them, and they will come to believe in Christ. This is our mission, this is our task, so we preach Christ, that many would come to believe in Him. And finally, we preach the Word of God because Jesus Christ is glorious.

We preach the glorious Christ, who is the nourishing bread of life, the blazing light of the world, the pearl of great price, the refreshing living water, the enduring cornerstone, and the strengthening true vine. The Jesus who is our greatest high priest, our wonderfully good shepherd, our devoted bridegroom, our mighty lion of Judah, and our sacrificial Lamb. The One who descended to the earth in humility, obeyed the Law perfectly, died on the Cross brutally, rose from the dead victoriously, rules in Heaven with all sovereignty, and who is exalted for all eternity.

Rooted was a wonderful and refreshing time where we were reminded why God’s Word is central to all we do at The Orchard. It was an amazing thing to see that the God of the universe chose to reveal Himself to a sinful and rebellious people. And aren’t you glad that God has revealed Himself to us? Why would we ever sing, pray, read or preach anything other than the Word of God? May we continue as a church to keep the Word of God central in all that we do.
Together, we’ll glean wisdom about fear, friends, family, words, work and wealth from the Book of Proverbs.

UPCOMING PREACHING SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 7/8
Open: A One-Year Journey through the Bible
Battle
Ephesians 6:10-20

DECEMBER 14/15
Open: A One-Year Journey through the Bible
Intercession
Hebrews 7:23-28

DECEMBER 21/22
Christmas

DECEMBER 28/29
Open: A One-Year Journey through the Bible
City
Revelation 21:1-4; 22:12-21

JANUARY 4/5
Wisdom for Life
Fear
Proverbs 8:1-11; 9:10-12
### STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Several of our staff celebrated significant work anniversaries in 2019. We’re grateful to the Lord for the way He’s gifted them and for His kindness in bringing them to and keeping them at The Orchard.

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<td>SANDY WILLIAMS</td>
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<td>SHOHEI SUZUKI</td>
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<td>LUKE TRIFILIO</td>
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