



Harbor & You

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe."

Ephesians 1:17-19

What is Harbor All About?

In this series we have learned the basics of Christianity and the role that our church desires to play in the spreading of God's good news of salvation to a world that otherwise has no true hope:

We have leaned about:

The Bible – It was given to us from God. It is completely true. It is essential to living a life of substance and meaning.

God – God is beyond our comprehension, but has revealed himself through the Bible in a way that we can know Him and understand what He desires of us. God exists in Trinity; The Father, Son and Spirit are all separate persons that make up the ONE true God.

Creation – All things and people came into existence through the power of God. He created each person in His own image and likeness. He desires to personally relate to every human that has ever existed.

Sin – Sin is anything that falls short of God's perfect intentions for His creation. Sin entered into the human experience when Adam and Eve first disobeyed God in the garden of Eden. All of humanity has retained the stain of that original sin, and each of us has continued that disobedience in our own lives by personal choice. Sin has separated EVERY person from a relationship with God and destined us to an eternity apart from God in a place called Hell.

Salvation – God has made it possible for us to escape our destiny of eternal damnation, by sending Jesus into this existence to redeem us by His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Salvation can ONLY come by our acceptance of the grace God offers us, and not from any good thing we might do!

Missiology – Since Jesus is the ultimate head (leader) of the Church, all Christians should be a part of a local church and should strive to live their lives in service to Him. It is the Church's role in this world to spread the message of God's salvation to those who have not heard it, so they too may experience the peace and eternal life that God has to offer.

Giving – God does not need our money, but we have a need to give. Giving frees us from a false sense of security in money, when God is the only true source of security. All that we have and all that we are comes from God. Therefore we should use everything at our disposal for His glory. A portion should be used to meet our needs and enjoy the life He has given us, but we should also set aside money to be used to support ministries, help the poor, and assist in the spread of the Gospel.

Spiritual Gifts – Every true Christian is given one or more special abilities (Spiritual Gifts) at the moment they put their trust in Jesus alone for salvation. These gifts are intended to be used for the growth and health of the church body. Each of us must seek to discover our God appointed role in the body of Christ. Only then will we find that we can wholeheartedly serve God and each other in the way He has intended.

It is our desire at Harbor to build up Christians into spiritually mature followers of Jesus, who are equipped to passionately and effectively spread the message of God's salvation to their family, their friends, our community and the world.

The problem with the modern American church paradigm is that even when we are passionate, we seem to have lost our effectiveness in reaching people who are truly in need of salvation. We seem most effective at reaching people who are disgruntled with their current church, or at best attracting people who have a church background but have given up on finding "a church that they like." If we are to truly be the Church God has intended, we must be more committed to reaching the segment of our society and the world that lives apart from God.

How Do I Fit at Harbor?

To find your place at Harbor you should ask yourself the following questions:

- 1) Have I really trusted in Jesus alone for my salvation?**
- 2) Am I truly committed to following Jesus in all areas of my life?**
- 3) Am I willing to make my spiritual growth a real priority in my daily schedule?**
- 4) Who has God brought into my life to impart some spiritual influence?**
- 5) What spiritual gifts has God given me and how might I use them at Harbor?**
- 6) Do I want to be a vital part of a Church body rather than just a service attender?**