

SERIES: ANCHORED

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, April 23-24, 2022

SERMON: God's Purpose

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31 NIV

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[19] On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

[20] After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

[21] Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

[22] And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

[23] If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

[24] Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

[25] So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

[26] A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

[27] Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

[28] Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

[29] Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

[30] Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

[31] But these are written that you may believe[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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God used this passage to teach us about....

1. The _____ Body

- Not stopped by _____ or _____
- Could be seen and heard by _____
- The risen Lord was not continually _____
- Changed to be the form _____ to new life

2. The Work of the _____

- To _____ to Christ
- To remind them (and us) of the _____ of Jesus
- To _____ new truth
- To be _____ them
- To _____ their ministry

3. Our _____ until He returns

- To accomplish the _____ of Christ
- To teach _____
- A _____ person can say with assurance that sins are forgiven a person of repentance and faith

4. The _____ of Faith

- **Hebrews 11:6** *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*
- Faith is the key to _____; unbelief leads to _____

Lagniappe

Why I Am Encouraged

I am greatly encouraged, and I want you to know why.

Here are some things I am encouraged about as should you, but they are not the reason for my writing this today.

I am encouraged by --

Our attendance. Since the first of March both our worship and Connect Groups attendance has exceeded the average attendance in the same time period pre-Covid. You may recall that we were at one time looking for 101% of our previous attendance. Now we have finally exceeded that 101%.

Our attendance for Easter weekend. It was an all-time high attendance for Easter. I know that the attendance on Easter encouraged you as well. I heard that over and over.

The giving to our anchored campaign. Over 400 families pledging more than \$4 million is allowing us to make progress on a number of fronts as we get ready for the future.

All of these things are encouraging, but my greatest encouragement comes from the way I see our people working and how I see God working.

I was amazed and overjoyed to see how you invited family and friends to worship. That is one reason for our high attendance, but you invited them not to set an attendance record but to hear the gospel.

I am encouraged to see boldness that has been demonstrated in so many of you. You have prayed, invited, and encouraged other people to hear the gospel and to know Christ. I actually think that the turmoil we are seeing in the country is being used of God to draw people to Himself. I think other people recognize that they've tried everything looking for peace and joy but cannot find it. You are helping them find it through your faithful Christian witness.

Finally, I am encouraged to hear other people in other churches making the same estimates about their own churches. Continue to pray for FBC Covington and let us deliberately pray for other churches around us and for the church worldwide

May God continue to bless His church.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Barin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.