

# **SERIES: URGENT WORDS FOR URGENT TIMES**

**DATE:** Saturday - Sunday, September 2-3, 2023

**SERMON:** The Urgency of "In Christ Alone"

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, 22-31 NIV

[10] I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

[11] My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

[12] What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

[13] Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?

[14] I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius,

[15] so no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

[16] (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.)

[17] For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

[18] For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

[22] Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,

[23] but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

[24] but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

[25] For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

[26] Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.<sup>27</sup>

[27] But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

[28] God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,

[29] so that no one may boast before him.

[30] It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

[31] Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

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## 1. The urgency of \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Philippians 2:2-4** *Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

## 2. The urgency of \_\_\_\_\_.

- We struggle to say, " \_\_\_\_\_."

## 3. The urgency of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- We struggle with placing \_\_\_\_\_ over Christ's cross.

## 4. The urgency of \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Matthew 16:24** *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*

# Lagniappe

At our recent congregational meeting, we used some of our time to simply bring the congregation up to date on where we are in terms of outreach, attendance, and finances. I also spoke about our Metairie Church campus, as well as First Baptist Church Kenner and Metairie Korean Church.

## **Here are some of the highlights of that meeting:**

*First*, I want to bring us up to date on where we are in terms of getting past Covid from 2020 to 2022.

Our worship attendance this year is up significantly over 2019 (the last year before the pandemic) and the intervening years. In 2019 we averaged 2213 in total worship. So far this year we are averaging 2376. We are experiencing the same kind of growth in our Connect Groups. In 2019 we averaged 1494 and so far in 2023 we are averaging 1562.

I am gratified to see how we have grown and reached new people during this time.

*Second*, we talked about where we are in terms of indebtedness and in our week by week giving.

We have had a targeted emphasis on reducing our debt. This has put us in an excellent place for the future. Also, our giving for 2023 is on target to exceed our budget.

We are thankful for your faithfulness in giving which allows the church to do significant ministry.

*Third*, I am truly thankful for the number of children, youth, and adults who have publicly professed faith in Christ and are following Him in baptism. Today's river baptism at **Bogue Falaya Park** - with more than 50 people to be baptized - is indicative of the things we have seen. I hope you will come celebrate with us @ 4:00pm - 213 Park Drive, Covington.

May we continue to reach out and invite so that people may come to know Christ as Lord and Savior.

*Finally*, we discussed the location for Metairie Church and Metairie Korean Church. For years, we have looked for a suitable location for these two campuses. We have determined to move them to First Baptist, Kenner. Our First Baptist Kenner congregation has welcomed them with open arms. We are grateful for God's blessings as we work with these congregations.

Thank you for all that you do to make our ministry possible.

# Waylon