

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

**DATE:** Saturday - Sunday, September 23-24, 2023

**SERMON:** The Urgency of Seeing the Church as God Sees It.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 3:12-17, 5:1-2, 9-13 NIV

[3:12] If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

[13] their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

[14] If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

[15] If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

[16] Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

[17] If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

**[5:1]** It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife.

[2] And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?

[9] I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people -

[10] not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

[11] But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

[12] What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

[13] God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you."

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1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ church, and we must \_\_\_\_\_ for it.

- God's \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
- God's \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Corinthians 3:12-15
- God's \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- It is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the church.

2. God is \_\_\_\_\_, and we must be \_\_\_\_\_ as well.

- **1 Peter 1:15-16** *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*
- **1 Corinthians 6:18** *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.*

3. God is \_\_\_\_\_, and His love must be \_\_\_\_\_.

- **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
- The church is the \_\_\_\_\_.

# Lagniappe

I have many needs. You probably do also. **My greatest need is to hear from God and to let Him lead me through life.**

I have learned that as long as I have the presence of God in my life, I have all that I really need.

## ***How do we constantly experience His presence?***

**First**, we obviously must submit ourselves fully and completely to Him. We can't have God as "part-time" in our lives. We must be "all-in" with Him. When we do so, we open ourselves to His presence.

**Second**, seek Him through prayer and holy scripture. Sometimes people will say, "I wish God would speak to me." It's not being disingenuous for me to say, "God has already spoken to you and me through His word." God has provided His leadership and direction through His divine word.

**Third**, invite God to be present in every part of your life. God wants to do this, but we must invite Him. The more we seek Him and obey Him, the more He will be present with us.

**Finally**, share God with the people around you. Tell them of His wisdom and guidance and let them know of the peace, joy, and love that comes from knowing Him.

# Waylon