

Sermon Notes for August 1, 2021: “Pray, Watch, Speak”

Today’s Sermon Text: Ephesians 6:18-20

Memory Verse: *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* **Ephesians 2:10**

I. Previous Sermon Review

- Member raised question: *“Doesn’t God have our every, single day planned out?”*
- Answer: There is **NO solid Biblical evidence** that this is the case.
- Bible is clear: **Death** came **through sin**, not God. (Genesis 3:3,6,19; Romans 5:12)
- **Eternal Life** is **restored** thru **cross** and **resurrection** of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17)
- Closest Bible comes to saying God plans every day is Psalm 90:10: We are given about 70 – 80 years of earthly life.
- We are **“ordained”** (gifted) these years to **live and serve God** . (Psalm 139:16)
- Human life **complex**: the Gospel, freewill, our own sin, other’s sin, chaos/chance
- All these factors combine to **determine** our earthly life span & what we do with it.
- No matter, Jesus’ cross & resurrection **guarantee** believers eternal life. (I Cor. 15:57)

II. How Then Should We Live?

- If we embrace this theology of life & death, Paul says we Christians approach our Christian lives with all **seriousness** and **urgency** ... making the most of it.
- Ephesians 6:18-20, lays out what this life of faith should look like.
 1. **Pray** – *“pray in the Spirit on all occasions”* (Ephesians 6:18a)
 - Christian life is **founded on prayer**
 - *“In every situation, by prayer and petition ... make your request known to God.”* (Philippians 4:6)
 - *“pray without ceasing ... for this is God’s will for you”* (I Thess. 5:17-18)
 2. **Watch** – I.e, *“Be on guard, be alert!”* (Ephesians 6:18b, Mark 13:33)
 - you don’t know when your life will end or when Jesus will return
 - stay **focused on your calling** to worship and serve God and Jesus
 3. **Speak** – I.e, The Word of God **must go forth** into the world (Ephesians 2:19-20)
 - *“On account of me, you will be called before governors and kings as witnesses to them.”* (Mark 13:9)
 - Remember: it is a **privilege** to speak for Jesus in the world. (Romans 1:16-17, Ephesians 3:7)
 - You will be **given the words to speak** on Jesus’ behalf. (Mark 13:11)