

NORTH WAY

notes outline

FIGHT THE DRIFT MESSAGE OUTLINE, WEEK 4

I am very excited about that Series that our Lead Pastor Dave D'Angelo will kick off next week. Often, we think of the Biblical Story as a collection of ancient books and stories that are broken into chapters and verses from a long time ago. That is true but we sometimes we forget that the Bible is actually telling one story; a story that we are part of now. Then after that we begin a five-week Series on October 18th called The Election. How does the Gospel compel us to engage in this political season? Some have simply decided to completely disengage, and others have declared a political party their religion. These next two Series are going to be powerful; so please stay connected. Whether you are ready and have begun joining us at one of our locations or are still connecting with us online, welcome to North Way.

Today we wrap up a Series we called Fight the Drift. We have been looking at ways; that if we are not careful, we end up drifting from being followers of Jesus. **When we lose sight of our need, we lose sight of our God.** Drift rarely happens intentionally; in fact, we often are unaware that we have drifted from God. Today I am going to speak to the topic of Worldview. So, what is a worldview? It is the lens and filter in which we see our world. We all have one whether we realize or recognize it. Speaking to God-followers - I want to explore this question. Have you drifted from a God-Centered Worldview? A few heads up before I go at this. If you are not a God follower, first welcome, so glad you are joining us today. However, the point of this sermon is not to convince you to adopt a Christian Worldview. Hopefully this sermon will help you understand the worldview of a Christian, of someone that is trying to follow God. Secondly with the tension in our culture today and an upcoming emotionally charged election you may pick up an offense. You may hear something that was not intended. If you do, I'm sorry, that is not my intention, I am not trying to pick a fight. The fact is we are an easily offended group of people right now. My agenda with this sermon is for each of us to self-discover if we may have drifted from a Biblical Christian worldview ...period.

TO NOTEBOOK

So, first lets generally define what a Biblical/Christian worldview is. This is 10,000 feet; this is Scott's Doctrine for Dummies not a Systematic Theology seminary class. So, this is a God-centered

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world view...

- God created with purpose; we are here on purpose not by accident
- There is sin, its consequence is (death)
- Savior was sent (Jesus)
- His death provides Salvation (unearned)
- Result is the gift of Heaven (home). Heaven is home.
- In a Christian worldview Earth is (camping)

From time to time I have mentioned that I do not like camping, I do not understand the allure. Once a year I go on a camping and canoeing trip. The two main reasons I go is one; I get to spend time with my son-in-law and my grandson. The second reason is because it is temporary. Three days, two nights in a tent, going to the bathroom in the woods, worried about snakes and bears...I can do it because I realize it is temporary. I will be back home in a bed, with a flushing toilet soon. A Christian worldview realizes earth is temporary, Heaven is home. While on earth we are to strive to be...

- Holy, to follow to the best our ability God's plan, ways, and mission for our lives.
- Our questions are answered by turning to God's Word/Bible. God's Life/God's Rules

Are you with me? Let's take it a step further, obviously there are other worldviews out there. So let's look at a different take, an Atheist Worldview

- No God
- No creation, this is all just chance
- No sin
- No need for a Savior
- No salvation needed or required
- There is no Heaven or no Hell
- Earth then is home. At the end we cease to exist.
- So therefore, I am not here to be holy according to God's ways I am here to be happy.

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- And it's not God's Word where you get your questions answered it is your feelings.
- My life/my rules

I have intentionally left a big space in the middle. The middle is the drift. We are clearly not over here (right), but we very well might be in here (middle). You can call this middle many things, for the sake of putting a name on it lets call it a Secular Worldview. It is made up of the ever-changing culture, causes, relationships, books, current events. They are not all evil, but often it does not align with a Christian Worldview and it often pulls us from Gods life/Gods rules. It can distract us, make us do foolish things, forget about God...when you lose sight of your need, you lose sight of your God. In the middle Earth is Home & Heaven is Home. This is the drift; God does not want it that way...in the Book of Revelation He calls that 'lukewarm' and it disgusts His.

BACK TO NOTES

In interpreting the Old Testament there is an expression known as Deuteronomistic Cycle. (Slide) God's people the Nation of Israel were living Gods Life/God Rules and there was peace in the land. Then they would drift (Secular Drift). They would begin to sway with culture, they would adopt neighboring nations culture, rules, ways. So much so you couldn't tell the God Followers from the Non-God Followers. God would get angry (Anger of God) and lift His hand of protection. The people would get run over by other nations (Oppression). God's people would cry out for help. (People Cry Out). God would have compassion. There would be peace in the land. Then the cycle would repeat itself. The middle is living in the gray. If you enjoy living in the gray you are not living out a Christian/Biblical Worldview.

In Acts chapter 17 we find an early group of followers from the area of Barea; the Bereans. In verse 11 they are referred to as "more noble" than other early believers. The word for "more noble" there means they were open-minded, fair, and thoughtful. When the Apostle Paul taught them, it says; "with all eagerness" they looked to the Old Testament to ensure the accuracy and authority of what they were hearing; "examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." They avoided the drift. When new teachings came their way, political causes, events, shifts in culture... they eagerly examined them to determine accuracy and alignment with God's Word...and if it did not align, they rejected it. They responded intellectually and responsibly not emotionally. Are you emotionally jumping on the social bandwagons of today's culture? Or are you being "more noble," and thoughtfully evaluating whether they align with a Christian, Biblical, Jesus-follower worldview? In times like this we need more Bereans and less bullies and loud mouths. More noble, open-minded, fair, and thoughtful people and less pride, hate, and division. The Bereans eagerly and patiently searched for the facts and were resolute to see what aligned with their God's Worldview. The Bereans were 'factivists.'" Sometimes I wonder if it would be better off with more factivism than

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activism.

Clinging to a Christian worldview in an ever-changing secular world is not for the feint of heart. It takes way more courage to stand firm than it does to drift. Its easy to say; 'love everyone.' It's harder to remind ourselves that Godly love is wanting for others what God wants for them, even when that's not what they want for themselves. Its easy to have empathy for our broken world. It is harder to have empathy yet separate it from being in agreement. Empathy can cause deep sadness in me; anger and passion and it should cause me to listen and sort out my own ignorance. However, it should not cause me to 'hashtag' causes that are not aligned with my Christian Worldview or to be quiet because it may not be viewed as popular.

What I do know is that there are powerful and sacred signs that come with clinging to a Godly Worldview. One is assurance. I am assured of a home in heaven, earth is only temporary, I'm just camping here for a little while. Assurance vs. Doubt. The sacred sign of Peace vs Worry. Though the world is ever changing and swirling around me I have an inner peace fueled by the Holy Spirit living inside me. I do not need to live in a constant state of worry and anxiety. Hope vs. Shame. Hope in God's forgiveness through Jesus that is unearned. And the incredible sacred sign of Freedom vs Fear. I do not live in fear of the outcome of elections, stock market fluctuations, COVID-19, or whatever else 2020 will throw at me. What your life is more marked by may determine if you are drifting. Is it marked more with the signs of Assurance, Peace, Hope, and Freedom...or... Doubt, Worry, Shame, and Fear? Heaven is home, earth is temporary.

I have often heard people when they return from a Mission Trip say things like; "I cannot believe how blessed we are in this country; I almost feel guilty." Or "These folks had so little but had so much joy." My time with Christians in India, Haiti, China, and Kashmir has expended and exploded my Christian Worldview. I met folks who fully understood and embraced Heaven being Home. They faced real and devastating persecution, hardships, and struggles on earth and fully embraced them as temporary, I saw their assurance, peace, hope, and freedom for eternity...I saw Heaven in their eyes. I realized just how fortunate we are in this country, far from perfect yet blessed. Maybe part of the problem is that camping in the United States is at times comfortable. We lose sight of our need; we lose sight of our God.

How do you know if you may have unintentionally drifted to the middle? Probably a lot of ways, but I know of one tell tale sign. You've stopped winning people to Jesus. You may be winning them to a cause or a candidate but not to the Christ. You know you've drifted when you're not sharing your

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faith and when people are not asking you; “Hey where doe your joy, peace, your hope come from... how are you managing that.” You’ve drifted when you are just as worried, afraid, angry, and doubt filled as everyone else.

Shannon Libengood is on our Executive Team; she oversees Discipleship and Missions across all of our locations. In a recent meeting she told the story of a dream she had years ago. She was on a train headed to heaven and she had a feeling of elation. God revealed to her others on the train that represented people she had shared her faith with that were also heading ‘home.’ Then she realized the train was not very full and her elation turned to overwhelming sadness and grief. She pleaded with God to stop the train, she needed to go back and share her faith, to live a life marked with sacred signs of peace, hope, and freedom. I really resonated with this, it really made me pause and think.

In Romans 9 the Apostle Paul is using imagery of a race with our faith being the goal. He is comparing those pursuing righteousness – God’s Life/God’s Rules vs those chasing after their own lives/living by their own rules...drifting. Acts 9:32 - 33 - **Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”** Jesus is the stumbling stone; He is the rock of offense. His causing us to stumble warns us when we are drifting, He is the rock we should anchor our worldview to.

I want to close with an extended prayer. I told you my hope for this sermon was for self-discovery, not for me to try and point out where you’ve drifted, rather to allow the Holy Spirit to gently stop your drift and pull you back home.

PRAYER - ACTIVATION MOMENT

- Have I made earth home? Where has the accumulation of stuff and the pursuit of my own happiness pushed you aside?
- Where have I drifted from your Ways/Your Rules?
- Who do I need to share my faith with?

