



Upcoming Events

Women's Encounter:

Oct 14th & 15th

CG Leaders Gathering

Sun Oct 16th 4pm

Men's Encounter

Oct 21st & 22nd

2022 - CG Notes #32 Take Hold of Eternity

This outline and questions are from the message preached by Pastor Craig Maher 9th October 2022

Here is the link to listen to the message:

<https://youtu.be/zEJpqbAq27g>

Discussion

1. What does it mean to “have enough”, and what does it mean to be wealthy? How could the definition vary depending on where you live in the world?
2. Read 1 Tim 6:17-19. Paul uses strong words. He says, “Command those who are rich ...” Make a list of the several things Paul firmly directs the “wealthy” to do. What is the “life that truly is life”?
3. Discuss this statement by Ps Craig: “We live with the constant distraction of discontentment. We are pushed towards always wanting more.” What things contribute towards this distraction?
4. If time allows, review the story of Arthur Stace. You can use the link in these notes or do your web search. What inspiration did you receive from the testimony of Arthur Stace?
5. Following the testimony of Ps Ralph Rosas, we were asked what “prison” do you think contains you? In other words, what obstacles do we sometimes believe prevent us from sharing the good news?
6. The Apostle Paul wrote several of his letters from prison, Philippians being one of them. Read Phil 3:10-12. Paul wrote of taking hold of that which has taken hold of him. What did he mean by these words? How do his thoughts apply to us today?

Missions Sunday, 9 October 2022

Ps Craig Maher

Title: Taking hold of that which is truly life

Main points of the sermon

Which is the wealthiest nation in the world? According to Investment bank Credit Suisse, Australians are the richest people in the world. The figure is based on the country with the highest median wealth per person per annum, which, in 2021, was \$408 717. For much of the world, \$1,280.00 is the median annual income which comes to \$3.50/day.

1 Tim 6:17-19 NIV

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life

We live with the constant distraction of discontentment. We are pushed towards always wanting more.

The Scripture directs us to “take hold of life that is truly life.” It’s also true that we can take hold of the counterfeit life - the one that is not actually real life and not full of the hope we have in Christ.

People ask: “there must be more to life.” And this is true. There is more. There is eternity.

We need to take hold of this real life, eternal life. Furthermore, we must allow “eternity” to take hold of us.

James 4:14 NIV

Why you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Stories of three people who have taken hold of eternity

Arthur Stace

<https://www.eternitynews.com.au/in-depth/the-true-story-of-mr-eternity/>

Inspired by the preaching of the Rev John G Ridley and his repeated use of the word “eternity, eternity - where will you spend eternity?”

Arthur Stace was up every day at 4 am, taking to the sidewalks and buildings of Sydney. Though unable to read or write, he could write in perfect Copperplate script, the word Eternity. A witness and reminder to the people of Sydney for decades.

Ralph Rosas

Ps Ralph Rosas, now seven years and seven months wrongfully imprisoned in San Luis, Mexico. The same prison he once served as chaplain. Ps Ralph has been promised release from prison countless times but still remains. He has sought the Lord on what he is to do while he remains in jail. God said to him, “build men”.

In the past seven years, he has introduced Bible lessons and chapel services. Over 300 men have been water baptised, and 350 have graduated from Bible school.

Ps Ralph has been teaching men to look at life from an eternal perspective and that prison cannot contain the full extent of their lives.

What prison around you do you think contains you? Health, finances, past regrets? When eternity has gripped your heart, you can live so much bigger.

The Apostle Paul

Ps Craig's recent visit to Rome and time spent in the Mamertine Prison, now a church built over the site for 2,700 years, was a dungeon-type prison. The Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter spent time there.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamertine_Prison

Several of the Apostle Paul's letters, now a part of our New Testament, were written there. He may have spent up to three years in this dark, dank prison.

Col 1:26-27 NIV

The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

These are the words of a man who was physically contained but free in his soul as he was gripped by eternity. Paul's urgent message: people must know this glorious truth!

For us today

Our responsibility to bring the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ does not end at our faith promise. We each have a responsibility to bring the gospel to those around us.

Phil 3:10-12 NIV

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

“Take hold of that for which Christ took hold of me”, Paul said. Even from prison! We are born for more - no matter what.

The Apostle lived with a death sentence every day. For that matter, so do we- for who knows when our last day will be?

Romans 8:38-39 NIV

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.