

Doxa Series
“The Church is central”
04/03/21
Newport News

Opening

-7 core Christian beliefs...unlocking glorious living

- **God is one**
- **The Bible is true**
- **The Cross is enough**
- **Mankind is helpless**
- **Jesus is life**
- **Eternity is real**
- **The Church is central**

-But we aren't going to spend huge amounts of time convincing you of these doctrines, these beliefs...this series is about challenging you to consider a very specific way these beliefs should be changing the way you live!

-(let's not reduce Christianity to religious intellectualism)

Introduction

-doxa: *glory, splendor, grandeur, power, kingdom, praise, honor... revealed presence of God, God himself...*

-root of doxa: *to think, suppose, believe, consider, imagine...*

-So each week we are going to look at one of these 7 core Christian beliefs (re-read) and ask this question:

>How does my belief that ___the Church is central___ inspire me to pursue a life that reveals God's glory to the world around me?

>unlocking glorious living is about our lives pointing people to a living God who IS... (work through the definitions)

The Church is central

-Is being a committed part of a church family as important to you as it is to Jesus?

-(tell story of Dad cutting grass outside our windows...value work ethic...)

-Our Heavenly Father is saying to us...value Church!

-Matthew 16:17-19 (restate point above)

- Divine mission (called to)
- Divine power (accompanied by)
- Divine authority (operate in)

-are you spiritually 12, wake up, something better outside of your ambitions

-disappointed, betrayed, burned out, uninspired, confused, frustrated...when are you going to stop allowing the failings of others rob you of Church!

-I believe Jesus wanted the Church to be central to Christianity because it is His plan for an ongoing witness to His resurrection!

-Romans 8:11 (that's us...a resurrection witness...that glory for His glory)

Come and See!

-(tell Charlie Bevels story)

-Mark 16:1-8

-John 20:1-2

-Churches are supposed to be like Easter morning cemeteries...where people Come and See others who were once dead in their sin but now alive in Christ!

-Galatians 2:20 (At MCC, as I looked around that room...and God wanted people in the future too look around that room and see me!)

Go and Tell!

-John 20:19-29

- Notice verse 21...this is about Go and Tell!
- Verse 22...born again SO THAT they will Go and Tell!
- Verse 25...trust God with your doubts!

-Churches are supposed to be like Upper Rooms...where people who lack the faith to be a witness for Jesus are convinced by Him to join others in their mission to Go and Tell!

-Don't be afraid to be honest about your doubts...Jesus loves you just as much as He loved Thomas and churches are the best of places to find your Upper Room encounter with Him! (talk about masks!!!)

Seek and Find!

-Acts 9:10-15 (Romans 1:16 is about strategy...Acts 9 is about outcomes!)

- Churches are failing because we are stuck at verse 13...
- Gentiles: ethnicities and cultures different from yours
- Kings: economics, social status, and yes...political alignments
- Israel: and of course people like you!

-Churches are supposed to be like Straight Street...where people who Seek and Find a family who would never otherwise be friends and work together to build the Church Jesus envisioned, to love the world He died to save! (plug blog: Caught Up Together)

- His resurrection is convincing...Come and See
- His resurrection is compelling...Go and Tell
- His resurrection is captivating...Seek and Find

Band/The Question (do this at the close)

-How does my belief that ____the Church is central____ inspire me to pursue a life that reveals God's glory to the world around me?

-(give my first three...from the first three sermons)

-I want to live for God more fully...just like how They live for one another! (God is one)

-I want my life to be an echo of the wisdom of Scripture to the world around me! (The Bible is true)

-I want to feel dependant even when I am able! (Mankind is helpless)

-I want to cherish Jesus' bride like He does! (The Church is central). (are we telling Jesus we love Him but His bride is ugly?)

-Ephesians 5:25-27

Close

-salvation call...