

**Praxis Series
Pathways
08/19/23
Newport News**

Opening

-new 7 week series...taking us through most of September

Introduction/Recap

-You and I must decide what we believe is waiting for us after we die, because what we believe about that day should ultimately determine how we live out our lives between now and then.

-Matthew 16:24-27 (Romans 2:5-11)

- Dispelling belief that Christians won't be judged...
- The 5 Solas
- Jesus and the early Apostles: judgment!
- Good deeds don't make up for being a bad person!
- Ergon (Romans 2) AND Praxis (Matthew 16)

-For too many people, churches have become places where people want someone to tell them ALL the right things to do and ALL the wrong things not to do. I have found in over 20 years of pastoral ministry that if we teach people how to be virtuous, most everything else follows!

-The more I become like Christ in virtue, the more I become like Him in deeds.

-A virtuous heart produces Godly deeds.

Pathways

-Jeremiah 6:16

-(hold up booklet for people)

-Scripture, Prayer, Fasting, Worship

-Gathering, Reaching, Relationship, Accountability

-Service, Generosity, Stewardship, Rest

-We like the term Pathways because they take us somewhere! Where? To becoming a virtuous person! Why does that matter? Because a virtuous heart produces good deeds! Why does that matter?

-Matthew 16:24-27

-Discipline still matters!

- More teaching...more effective
- More teaching...more meaningful
- More teaching...more understanding
- More teaching...NOT more present...that's DISCIPLINE!

"Jesus Believes In Me" (tell funny participation story from last week)

-participation moment: **What shouldn't we be teaching at preschool?**

-A great teacher understands the ability, the potential of their students.

-Matthew 5:21-48

- *Have you ever stopped to think about how the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus believing in us?*
- *Have you ever stopped to think about how the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus having faith in us?*
- *This is Jesus telling us we have agency, we have the ability of self-governance, we can be the people He describes in His sermon!*
- *But we will NEVER get there without Virtue and Pathways are the key!*

-From last week...virtues are no different than the gardens you have planted...if you create a spiritually vibrant environment in your life, virtues will grow. And the consistent work of the 12 Pathways are the keys to that spiritual vibrancy...the work of gardening for the soul.

Band

-Red, Yellow, Green

-Matthew 7:24-29

Close

-Welcome Home Moment