

Untitled Note

Sun, 08/18 02:05AM 58:45

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

church, people, children, god, john, pray, mature adults, narnia, father, family, jesus, trust, age, grow, write, sin, book, word, adults, david

Oh Come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our God for He is our maker. We are the people his pasture and the sheep of his hand. I woke up this morning in the name of the Risen Christ, who is alive and well and rules and reigns and welcome again, to gather together all belong to Him. And there will be a time where they'll be no more war, and no more crying, No more tears, What a wonderful anticipation we may have. So I Welcome you if you're visiting and invite you to share, And Let's begin by joining together is singing number 99. Come on and celebrate.

Now, before you sit down, you turn to someone and I know that their visitors with us that I know you'd like to meet, so welcome them and introduce yourself. And if you're just a regular member, that's okay too.

Okay, would you do Be quiet just

talking to the visitors.

We get the privilege of gathering together and we begin our time with praise. And then we have a chance to pray. And we want to praise God in our prayer. We want to confess our sin in our prayer because we don't deserve to come before God. And yet he has invited us to come and made it possible through his sacrifice on the cross. We pray for needs around the world. world issues and we pray for needs within the congregation then among friends, are there any particular needs that you would like us all to know about? That we can pray for this morning? And then that we can follow through in prayer during the week? Are there things that you'd like to bring up?

The applications

aren't for Yeah, you gotta get rid of this American from here. Get it get a preacher for real? Yes. They can see an application you have any time, a night in September. Okay, ninth of September have to be in by for the vacancies. That's great.

Well, welcome. Just put them all on the floor.

When my little daughter first daughter was about that age right there, She came up to me one time and said, Daddy, I want to dance in your church. And I said to myself, I would not like to serve a church that would not enjoy a child's dancing. So you're able to do that. Let's go to God in prayer. Yes, just broke.

The same scale, a

break for men and the big.

Let's join together and prayer.

almighty and most gracious God or loving creator, We give You thanks that you have made it possible for us to come here. And that's possibility comes directly from your love. For you loved us so much that you sent your only begotten Son, to die on the cross for us to be raised from the dead for us, to rain together with you for us, and to come again some time for us. And Father, we don't deserve that. But we have not obeyed completely. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul strength in mind. We have done things that we know and you know that we should not have done it there things that we should have done. We have failed to do. And so Father, we agree with your judgment on ourselves and confess, we confess our sin. And in this moment, As a congregation in silence, And personally, we bring before you those concerns those sins that we need to confess.

Good news is that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all in righteousness. And so we thank you. And so we praise you for the gift, The gift of grace, forgiveness. Lord, we praise your good for your goodness, your beauty and all that you are. For

You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we give you thanks for the beauty around us. For the friendships that we share for strangers who can be part of our worship, but who are connected with us through the faith that we share. We give you thanks for family, We give you thanks for the gifts of life. Father as we praise and as we give thanks, we also pray, We have needs, The world has needs. There are wars and rumors of wars and their families. There are evil dictators who use their positions of authority for their own selves rather than the good of the people over whom they have authority. Father, we pray against those people and against those places. We pray for godly leaders around this world. And we pray Father for peace where there is no peace. We praise you, Father, for ourselves, And the people in this congregation. We pray for the lease and for the child that will be born. We Thank you for the medical technology available to help. And that all things look well be with David and the family, in their concern and in their care. Father, we pray with our broken relationships between people that you would heal. We pray Father, where there is physical, emotional, spiritual turmoil, that you as you come to water, would say peace and there would be peace, Be still and there would be silence. Father, we give you thanks, we praise your name. And we come today to offer our worship to you. We do so in the name of Jesus, who taught his disciples and us to pray. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power. The glory forever and ever. Nancy, would you like to do something with the show?

Yes, you got toys.

We go out we sometimes need toys.

See, Laura said she helped me out. Right and Joshua.

You know,

you know, in the power of the Bible, the pastor was going to talk about, you know what God calls all of us.

Because all of us, children, he says, He says he talks about being a child. And I have noticed about some children here. I know this Jasmine has got worked at this church since she was born.

Because when we were here four years ago, there was her baptism. And she's been part of this every day of her life, right? And Chloe likes I mean, April likes to do April likes to be a dancer in God's Church, don't you and the music's playing like to dance. I know he's pretty good at organizing and helping This morning, we need because the PowerPoint isn't available for the hymns today, that pimp of the mission Price Books off. The Sander knew how to help me get those books out of the chairs to us to be helpful. And Chloe is a little bit you know, to know to that, you know, she's beginning to trust to last week she was going to coffee with her dad. Then she decided that movie because Zander was coming. And she seen me several times. Maybe she could just come on in and trust and be part of what was going on in there. And Now she would help me to Joshua said to Jonah said to I'm sorry, see, I don't do it right. Sometimes, you're trying to tell what God's saying is that all of us are expected to know that he loves us. He wants us to be dancers in his church, to relax, to trust to work together to help what they are whatever else needs do. Now He doesn't say we're supposed to say just children all our lives, we've got some growing up to to really, truly, you are the people God wants us to be. So I think we're going to sing a song. Yes, yes. And Then let's go out if you want to bring the toys, that might be good too.

And she's gonna help

him those around. Let's stand and join in 302. Number 302, I want to walk with Jesus.

All right.

And show it and now receive the morning offering.

David,

Thank you,

God to give you thanks for these gifts, and we pray that you will use them for the building of your kingdom here and around the world.

Amen.

Let me give a brief introduction to what I'll be sharing this morning. And then after that, but stand and sing number 590 I believe it is seek ye first. So those of you that haven't been here I let me mention this to I put on the back table, a little book that I prepared for our series that I'm doing on a letter of encouragement to peculiar people the letter first john, and you feel free to take one of those on your way out, use it for your own self, your study or group if you're in it as well. We're looking at this a letter to encourage me to peculiar people, it's

review it's

written to believers, I write these things. Do you believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life? Now that no word means that you may be assured that you may be confident that you without doubt, make trust, that promise that God has made to you when you came to faith in Christ. Now, for some reason, then early on, I talked about some of the reasons

people would begin to doubt the path to things was Jesus able to do

what he promised to do? And will I In fact, receive what it is that he's promised two fundamental questions that source of those questions I've looked at before. And john is trying to answer that as sure them, give them confidence, embolden them by telling them to do one thing that is to remember, the stop talking about emotions. He's not talking about going to a conference and getting all psyched up, which may be very good. There's nothing wrong with that, but it won't last. He's talking about what they did in the Old Testament. Remember, when the people of God experience things, God told them to do things, build a monument and establish a pattern, a festival,

so that you remind yourselves of what it is that God has done. And So he says, I want you to remember two things whose you are, that is the nature of the one in whom you've put your trust, he is able.

And The second thing is how you should live in the light of who he is. That who he is should determine who you are

and how you live. And therefore you are a peculiar people. You're not supposed to live in the life

of your friends, your peers, your culture,

you have a different passport,

You belong to a one that has set you apart for a particular purpose. And therefore you are peculiar people.

That's the

basic thing. Now, we've talked about I have talked about over the two weeks, the ways in which John is trying to assure them first he begins with a fantastic, amazing identity of Jesus, and we've talked about that, Who's you are. And then he talked about how it is we should live in the light of who he is. And as soon as the phrase

walk in the light, he simply saying that you can

be absolutely confident of your faith of your salvation, If you walk in the light. Now He begins that by kind of a proviso. He says that I know you're not going to die Did I

know you're not going to all the time.

And so it really begins with how to deal with

sin, confess and then receive the grace of God. He said, your sin is real, But very soon, forgiveness is more real it start with that. But once you recognize that it's only through the forgiveness offered by the blood of Christ, that you can be right with God, You have been made right now live accordingly. Live accordingly, following the example of Jesus, he uses the phrase walk as Jesus did, and obey the commandments, and specifically love one another. And over and over, I've emphasized that word love. That is the key to the book of first John. It occurs 35 times, compared to the 36 times in all the Matthew, Mark, Luke and John together, Fall 103 times, but he has 17 times as many chapters in the book of John, also. So The key is love one another. But let's put some flesh on that. And that's what he's going to try to do in the passage call. The best to this

morning is relatively short passage. And very interesting. JOHN writes to the people I like to

you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I write to your father's because

you have known him who is with the beginning. I write to you, young man, Because you have overcome

the evil one.

daughter did I write to you, dear God, because you've done the Father. Right? You father's because you've known him who is from the beginning.

And I write to you, young man, because you're

strong. And the Word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. This is the word of God. Let's stand and join in singing five, nine and zero Seek ye first the kingdom of God.

Pray that you may take my words and drive them home to our hearts take what is right and true. And lift it up and what is mere dross. Right? But either way, be with all of us in our minds and with our The Jesus name. Amen. How many of you have read The Chronicles of Narnia? Chronicles of Narnia? Raise your hand if you've read the book. Are you aware of the Chronicles of Narnia? Yes. Okay. That will do Oh, no.

Chronicles of Narnia is written by CS Lewis. And some would say that it is the greatest children's literature certainly written during the last century.

The star of the Chronicles

of Narnia is a lion by the name of Iceland. And the characters are children who visit this magical land called Narnia. They meet this lion who is the figure of goodness and more, I don't want to tell

you the whole story. And they're constantly facing difficulties, temptations and problems. At one point in the book, Prince Caspian because there's seven books in The Chronicles of Narnia. Lucy, who is one of the adult children that has visited before comes is in Narnia. And again, in this magical mythical land sees Ozlem, She makes a comment, and her comment is your bigger Oz, like you've grown? And He says, I am not bigger, But you are older. And then she says, Are you telling me that you are not bigger?

And he concludes by this line?

Every year you grow, you will find me bigger.

And What CSOs trying to say is, that is the design of God.

It's the design of God that a child grows up to adulthood, to mature adulthood into senior citizen. And It's also the design of God that during those seasons of life, There are different needs that we have. There are different gifts that we have. There are different problems that we face, Bow, and there are different experiences that we've had. They See, what is the advice then to the church at this point? Why is john bring this up? Why does He say I speak to you children, I speak to you, or use the phrase young adults, and I speak to you materially or adults? Why at this point, does he bring this up? And I think the reason is simply

that he is recognizing the difficulty of walking in the light and

loving. I

think he's simply recognizing, that is easy to say. But when it gets down to practicalities,

it's hard

to do. It is hard to really love one another in the family, in that community, And even in the church. See, I think that what he's saying is that you face the difficulty of love. And one of the reasons is what Azzam was referring to. There's conflict in the church, every church, there's conflict

in the family, there's conflict in the community for a lot of reasons. But one source, and therefore one reason for the discouragement of the people who is writing is generational differences. And so he's writing to three different generations. And see what what the people are faced with is, when I came into the church and faith and came excited about Jesus, All of a sudden, I got

thrown into a community where their problems

And that's reality. And that wasn't what I expected. And What can I do about that's discouraging. We talked about love. We talked about unity, but but the reality is that that's not always there. Now, that's always been the case, my friends, you read through the New Testament, there is no ideal church. There is no church in which there's no conflict of lesbian church came closest to it. But man, I'll tell you, who read first Corinthians. He said, Oh, you guys,

you argue about this. And you argue about that one says I belong to Paul went to Paul was going to Peter, when the Jews, What is this all about? You argue about how to serve, give you some of you have come to that didn't end table was a common meal, with a whole big basket of

food and others. If you are too poor to bring anything and you don't share, you just eat your own things. And some of you argue about this detailed in worship, some of you raise your hands and the others get mad because you raise your hands. Why do you do and guys? The reality is the church has always been like that. And there are a lot of reasons for that. But I think what John is trying to say is let's identify one At this point. That is generational differences, that generational differences. In other words, each generation contribute something. Each generation needs something. And each generation brings with it some issues that need to be overcome. And I think that's extraordinarily practical. But a second one, cause the division and conflict is that generational difference is not always age based. Just because a person reaches a particular chronological point, does not mean they've reached that spiritual point. And what I've said to Lucy, ought to be the case, As you go, you grow. But The reality is that there are many people in the church who are still jumping. Course never grown up. never gone beyond the first stage, John writes, my dear children, And that's a sad truth. So what what we kind of look at it is the idea of being a child wife was childish. Now, childish People are people who do not follow it. First Corinthians 13 said, I became a man spiritually. I put childish ways behind me. Many people have grown up chronologically, But they have not grown up spiritually. And Paul particularly gives indications marks of childish ness that are, irrespective of age. One is you are infants when you're jealous importance Have you ever grown up. Another one is, when you lack discernment, your infants, When you're blown here and there by everyone to teaching. And Another one is unsteady,

simply as never spent the time your infants when you need someone to teach you the elementary truth of God's Word all over again. When you're not acquainted with teaching about righteousness, he says that, that that's childish behavior. And I can address you as adults and Corinthians, he said, I can talk to the adult because although this stage in your life, you are to be full eating meat and strong, you're still drinking mother's milk. And So what John is saying here is that there are generational differences part the rooted in age, but partly by choice of people to grow, or not to grow. It's always saying can measure adulthood By page. So that, in my words, the same in the two churches that I primarily served, during my 30 years of ministry, in these the capacity of head of staff, I brought into an incorporated a phrase, and that phrase was every ministry to every member and every member in ministry. And I tried to build my ministry around that. What I was simply trying to do was to say that every person no matter what stage in their development, chronological or spiritually, has a need, and has gifts, and has problems. And How do we as a church address those issues. Everyone does not have the same need, everyone does not have the same gift. Everyone does not have the same problems. But within the church, there are differences that come at different stages of life. What I tried to do was to take the phrase, Let us love one another, and put it into practice by have fun ways in which we address the needs of every member, administered every member At The same time in lyst, every member in ministry.

I think that's what John is getting at. And I think he's getting at it In this way. Your eyes, your children. Jesus said, I tell you the truth, that you become like little children, Jennifer's the king never enter the kingdom of heaven. We ask you an obvious question. What characteristics of children do you think that Jesus was talking about? What would you say when you think about children that are a gift that they have For the kingdom? And that they exhibit uniquely and freshly? Come on? Give me something? What? simplicity? Yeah. Great. What else? Honestly, brutally honest, honest, when I was new in the car to the church, And I wondered that elders, one of the most influential elders, the church came to that sliding glass door to induce himself. And my little daughter came up and said that he sure fact.

Honesty. Yeah, be a problem. What else? Trust. They're amazingly trustworthy. Yes, You

can if you want. What else?

acceptance. Yeah.

What else? But just a lot of things. The little children have a sense of awe and wonder. They're

amazed. That's why it's hard to walk with a little child and think you're going to get somewhere in time, right? Because they're stopping to admire. There's a leaf down there. Oh, there's, there's a bug down there. They're amazed. I remember when I was first introduced to the church in Seattle. And we lived in a house that was a little bit down. But as we came into, it became over rise, and you look and you could see the Puget Sound water, you could see the Olympic Peninsula mountains with snowcat peaks. And I said to the person who was escorting me around, You know, I hope I never I'll never get used to this. And they said, Oh, yes, you will.

I said, I hope not. The wonder, is

there a whole lot of things that the children

add, that unfortunately, when we become older, we may forget and if we're childish,

we certainly do. Forget. So What's John say, their children, I write to you, dear children is is wonderful, wonderful, intimate word. And, and he's writing? Is he writing to children, with the cat, The cat read? No, he's writing to the church, your children, your children, sometimes I write to you, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. And I write to your children, because you know, the Father has joined the family. And children know the importance of family. They know the question of commitment to the family, and the parents to the child, they, their survival is based on that commitment.

Now, at least in America,

When people come be part of the church, They usually see it as some kind of voluntary Association, like, like a social club. In The Bible, it's not that it is a family. It's a family that you've been born into through baptism, And that you become a part of for life.

And so we have in America, church shoppers,

They go from here to here to here to here. And if they don't like something, they move on. And there are plenty of churches and plenty of choices. But the idea that I am committed to this body, because it's my family, children know that they don't change parents, it's taken long enough for

Nancy,

to become familiar with some your kids, for them to stay out there.

You know why? Because it's not mom or dad. Family is the commitment. And so people

shop we that the church that I attend in, in, in Florida, is a rather large church. And there are people there, of all sorts of different stuff. But but they remodeled the sanctuary was taking place. And so we had to move for almost a year to the fellowship hall. And there are people who stopped coming and stop giving. Why? Because they were worshiping where they wanted to worship.

What is this? What is this about? What is commitment means the body, the family, children

know, enjoy the family, and they know the father of their family. And That's beautiful. Now, therefore, what does the church need to commit, contribute to them, At that stage their life, to model a model of commitment to the church and trust

in the Father, the

children are not listening to sermons. It's your faith statement that anybody listening to sermons that the children are listening, they're out there, What do they see they see you.

They see how you relate to each other and to them.

They need to have a model of commitment, and have trust in the father, on the part of everyone else

on the part of the culture And what they offer. What needs to be offered Is that a community that safe, acumen is watching.

And the communities nurture. And when I remember the baptism, Jasmine, and you all made a statement that you'd stand with third, you've done that, that you provide for that's what you're about.

Children need that.

What are the issues, they're mature and self centered.

Like a lot of adults who are still children,

Johnny, say, hey, grow up, Grow up.

By see that in you limit yourself center, you're still a child, got to go back to the basic realize that you're part of the part of the family, But just need more. So he writes them to the young girls. All right, too, young man, I use young adults, because you have overcome the evil one. And then a second writing begins to to each one, I write two young men because you're strong in the Word of God lives in you, you've overcome the evil one. The children have joined the family, the young men face the enemy. They face the enemy. And they've overcome the enemy. That great word overcome is a battle, they realize that there's a battle going on, as a battle with Satan, with the culture with all the peers with everything routed to this internal battle with sin and they've overcome. They have reached a point where they have identified that this is not an easy road. And they've gotten the resource, what's the resource, the resource is where

they are strong.

Young people face decisions about which way to go. And their temptations to go this way. And there's temptation to go this

way. And then there's the path of walking in the light.

And these young adults that have said, I recognize the issues, and I'm going to with the strength of the Word of God, and the direction of the Word of God is going to move here.

And that means

partly creativity. That means part of the creativity

and a new perspective. And what the church then needs to offer and

he's accepted his responsibility. The young people, young adults need to be given authority and responsibility and leadership,

the church and council teaching and guidance.

And I guarantee you that

often that is a basic source of conflict.

I remember, you know, what were the first came to delight the whole story of David and Goliath. On one aspect. Remember, the David the little shepherd boy goes to join the army. Just defeat brothers. He sees there's Goliath up there. And Goliath, this

great big guy.

And the army of Israel is afraid and Goliath comes out and challenges that David said, Hey, King Saul all do it. As Great King Saul do it.

Now What happens?

King Saul says, okay, you can do it.

And Here's my armor.

And David puts on his armor.

And it doesn't fit.

It was really good for Saul.

But this young man, David, it wasn't good

for he takes it off this. I can't wear it. And that's the image of the past and

the ways things were done. And The young men say that just isn't the way to go. There is built in a conflict in every single family

culture at church.

And then you hear what happens is that Saul sees David head out there without any armor, He offers him his sword, David says I can't carry that big sore. I'll just take my slingshot

shot,

and saw his thinking to himself, oh, my

lord. This

guy knows nothing. And I've trusted leadership to him. The winner is supposed to be the victor. And not just personally but between the two armies. What a fool am I trust this young man to forgo my armor and just carry a sling and guess what happened? Goliath new perspective, New Way accepted by Saul. I never understood why he let him do that.

But that was the great victory that God

issues idealism and patience and overconfidence. Young Adults can be very unwise. They can be very idealistic, we know that. And they need to be reined in. At that point, they need to be a reindeer. I love it. When Jesus comes down from the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John, and a man runs up to him says, Jesus, I've got my young son by boy and he's, he's filled with the evil spirit, the spirit cast them down even to fires, news is almost killed him and your

disciples couldn't do anything about it.

So Jesus turns to him and says, hey, that's easy. For him, to me, touches him, he falls down. People think he's dead. But he's actually freed from the Spirit and He stands up.

And so the disciples asked, How can we couldn't do this?

We've had great victory up to here. But how can we couldn't do it? He says this case, this can't get over to cast up by prayer.

Oh, we forgot to pray.

We thought were so strong ourselves that we thought that we can do it on our own.

And that's one of the great strengths that we have. In other words, I think that we

struggle with our failure and see the weakness in that. But we need to struggle with our success and see the weakness in that too.

Because Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build a library.

And so we have young adults,

And then we have mature adults. And it's interesting that unlike the other to the children and young adults, He writes exactly the same thing to the fathers. Maybe they're having a little hearing problem. Maybe they're maybe they're hearing aid isn't turned up high enough. But he's saying words, Yu says I write to you mature adults, because you have known him who is from the beginning, because you know him with the positive characters

experience with Christ. And

that is amazingly important. And Then what do they have to contribute? leadership and mentoring by both

example and wisdom? See a kid

John is not saying just because you got gray hair, Are you an adult, a mature adult, You need to factor through thought through, prayed through the experiences you've had experiences don't help us unless we reflect on them and learn from their wisdom. Oh, man. I remember when I was thinking about proposing to my first wife, but she's still my wife. Gotcha there didn't. My first wife. I knew that I felt love for her. But I knew that that's not sufficient reason to marry. And so I went to a wise woman who knew me knew her. And I asked her is about I'm thinking about asking Nancy to marry me, Should I? And she said, Well, of course. The I was seeking the wisdom that I as a young man knew I didn't have. And she gave me the advice. When I proposed the second time to my wife. It was she says it differently. But we were having a college meeting, I driven up all the way from California, to Washington. And we were saying goodbye. All the coats were in a room and I found myself alone with her. And she picked up her coat and I said, Nancy, Would you marry me and she said Good night walked out.

And I I went to the wise woman.

I said a funny thing just happened. And she said, Well ask her again.

So I did. I'm very romantic. We were guiding the car. She had a final that next day and driving her to college, about an hour long drive from where the college group meeting was and where the college was. She was reading her studying for her exam. And I said Nancy close the book. And she obediently obeys. I think that's the last time she'll be there. Anyway, she closed the book. And

then I said, Nancy, Would you marry me? And she said,

Yes.

That you open the book, Studying quite, quite romantic. Right? So but its wisdom. And young men today to realize that there is wisdom gained through experience with Christ it over time. And so the church needs to respect that in the older, mature adults, no matter what age they are,

and give them appropriate responsibility

that needs to be done.

But obviously, the issues or resistance to change, they do say that these are the seven last words of the church, we never did it that way before.

Those words, No more church. It's the end of it.

And The other thing is resistance on mature adults who are in age mature, but really not in spirit. They don't want to share it responsibility. had it for a long time I the one I want to share and I'm afraid they will not do things the way they've always been done. Which if they will not do things the way they've always been done. And that's their gift. wisely focused. Or the

other side is I've done my term.

I've rolled the one enough, I've set the chairs off enough, I've served as a deacon long enough, I've done it somebody else's turn. But there's nobody else to do that. Okay, I'm going to withdraw. You See, what I'm trying to trying to say is that the body is unit, though is made up of many parts, you know, all parts are many, a form one body, and soul is with Christ in the church. Each of us brings because of our chronological age or our spiritual age,

something positive that we is experiencing, that then gives us something to contribute. And

something to receive, and to accept

that the church has an obligation, a ministry to every member to to address. But also we have issues with the brain. So what I'm saying chronological, spiritual children,

This is a family,

Not a voluntary organization. And the young adults there is no way. But with the strength and courage and moral fortitude, and the Word of God we can face the enemy and we can win. And materials, there's wisdom, there to be exercised with grace and faith. And so that simple little phrase, but it's it's so important to john, is for us to what we're all about. And it just ain't that easy. Let's break It is most merciful God you have given us your word. And each of us needs to identify with one of these areas or worse get to Frederick in one area, one one area that would

help us to grow.

never leaving behind the good things of the stages but moving on to the other stages as well. So it can be full participants, members of the family Fighting victoriously the battle and leading with maturity. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen. Let's stand and sing number 543 Onward Christian soldiers.

Great on that.

Thank you Free to let's just do the singing.

Then It's our custom to turn to each other and say the grace and by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

The Holy Spirit

forevermore

