

Notes for Brian's Sermon at Brentwood Presbyterian Church

Sun, Feb 24, 2019

What's Your Worldview? – Hope/Uncertainty

(Psalm 33)



**For the word of the Lord is upright;
It's work is done in faithfulness.
The Lord love righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.
(Psalm 33:4-5)**

A lesson from Psalm 33

Every month here at Brentwood, we host a session of Simon Fraser University's Philosophers' Café – a question is posed, the people attending all get a chance to say what they think, then people get curious and contentious in exploring the issue – it runs about 90 min – this past Thurs night, there were 8 of us in the conversation about the skills we needed to teach our children – in a delightfully wide range of framing and phrasing, everyone agreed we need to teach them love – we recognized there is an instinct in human beings from the beginning to connect and care – as moderator of these cafes, I have the opportunity to introduce the Christian worldview in these conversations – it's not imposed, it's not forced, it's offered as a possibility for consideration – but it does get into the mix among people who take these kinds of questions seriously – I've come to call it 'dialogical evangelism' – the clearer we are about the Christian worldview, clearer we can be as an ambassador for Christ's reconciling grace in this world – and Ps 33 has a wonderful summary of that worldview in the 5th verse – “the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord” – that's what inspired Israel to erupt in praise, every musical instrument they can imagine giving voice to their joyful gratitude for this reality – I pray that same worldview comes through in our Brentwood Declaration – a loving God who never gives up on his vision for his creation

Provocative points to ponder – as always, too many to cram into one sermon

- As I have grown into my work as a leadership coach over the past 17 years, one of the insights about how human beings work that keeps emerging again and again is that our energy goes where our attention goes – what we pay attention to is amplified – where the focus of our soul shapes our worldview = the way we understand the world in which we live, the community in which we participate, the cause to which we contribute – and that worldview forms how we live – our attitudes, our behaviours, and the consequences they generate – a powerful ABC – attitudes generating behaviours generating consequences – so, seeing the earth as full of the steadfast love of the Lord is a powerful worldview that can richly shape your significance in this world

- And why is that important? – because it inspires hope in a world where many are trapped in the darkening clouds of depression and despair – let me give you an example from a recent conversation with a young jazz musician who has played in this space on several occasions – it was a text message while we were in Mexico – he wanted to know if he could do a benefit concert here for suicide prevention among teens, among his friends, and for himself – he felt he had come through those dark times in his life and wanted to do something to help others do the same – and he turned to us, to our little space of grace, as the venue for this act of hope – that’s just one small, but significant, example of how the Trinity Trio is making us ambassadors of the steadfast love of the Lord that fills this earth, no matter how dark our rebellions have made our lives

How does this all relate to our witness as a fellowship of the friends of Jesus?

Yesterday afternoon, Jill, Signe and I went to see *Green Book* – it’s nominated for an Oscar tonight – it’s based on a true story of a brilliant black pianist who chooses to do a tour of the deep south in the early 1960s, as his contribution to the civil rights movement – he hires a ‘good old boy’ from the Italian community in the Bronx to be his driver and protector – In the end, as I experienced the movie with tears in my eyes, it’s a love story – it’s about how the steadfast love of the Lord that fills the world breaks through countless barriers to connect people to flourish – I pray that you have been encouraged to see that love and to open yourself more fully to living in and for that love this morning

My Notes

My Prayers

