

From Listening to Passing It On

How to Listen to a Sermon, pt 3 of 3

Judges 2:10-12; Joshua 4:1-11; Nehemiah 8:1-8

06-23-2013

Pt 1, An Ignorant Generation

Judges 2:10-12

06-24-2013

There Arose a Generation

- Memorial, memory, serving to preserve memory.
- The Bible is full of memorials
 - The Seven-Day week – Gen 2:1-4; Ex 20:8-11; 31:17
 - The flaming sword – Gen 3:24
 - The Tower of Babel – Gen 11:1-9
 - The Rainbow – Gen 9:11-17
 - The Passover – Ex 12:24-29
 - Twelve Stones – Jos 4:1-12
 - The Law – Deut 6:6*f*.
 - An Ignorant Generation – Jdg 2:10-12; Ez 8:1-8, 18; 9:1*ff*.

The Generations of Our Time

- 82% of Americans claim to be religious.
 - Half of those support homosexual marriage
- 59% of 18-29 yr olds have dropped out of church after going regularly. (Barna)
 - 37% of adults qualify as “post-Christian”
 - 66% claim to have had a real and personal connection with God while attending church
- The fastest growing religious group in America is those with no religious affiliation --- up from 15.3% in 2009 to 17.8% in 2012. (Gallup)

The Generations of Our Time

- Bible as sacred literature?
 - 84% of those polled agree --- 1 in 14 Christians disagree
 - 1 in 3 Americans believe the “Bible is the actual Word of God”
- Among self-professed Christians (Barna)
 - 75% claim to have been “born-again” (up 5 pts from 1991)
 - 77% believe God to be omniscient, omnipotent and Creator of the Universe
 - Down 5 pts from 1991
 - 53% believe in the existence of Satan (down 5 pts from 1991)
 - 43% believe the Bible to be accurate in what it teaches (down 10 pts from 1991)
 - Of the “born-again...” 48% still believe and trust that Jesus will take them to heaven based on their faith alone, apart from their own works. (up 7 pts from 1991)

Born Agains of Our Time

- Overall, 40% of Americans claim to have been “born again.”
- Changes since 1991
 - Sunday School Attendance – Down by 14 points to 26%
 - Volunteer for the Church – Down 12 points to 29%
 - Attend Services at least Once per week – Down 7 points to 59%
 - Believe the Bible to be accurate and authoritative – down 10 points to 65%
- Two thirds of their children stop attending church at all, once they are on their own.
 - 90% of those attended public schools where atheistic evolution is the *de facto* religion and a post-Christian worldview dominates.

Who Can Blame the Young People?

Adults who claim to be born again

- Nineteen percent are self-professed unchurched (up 5 pts from 1991)
- Resolved Speaker – 2 Key Questions
 - Are you going to church regularly?
 - Yes --- wonderful
 - No --- ask second question
 - Are you still a Christian?
- Pointing the way to Jesus is **our responsibility**.
 - Listen well to God's Word. Neh 8:1-8
 - Point out God's works to our children. Josh 4:1-11; Ps 78
 - Don't let our children grow up without knowing who God is. Jdg 2:10-12

Bill Nye and Ntnl Ctr for Science Education

- Summary of video presentation entitled **Creationism is Not Appropriate for Children** Bill Nye (adapted from Answers, Jan-Mar 2011)
 - If evolution is not taught as a fact:
 - America will lose its edge in science
 - America will run short of engineers and other innovators
- National Center for Science Education **Creationism, Mr. Nye, and Dr. Pepper**, Steven Newton (*ibid*)
 - “What we can do is work toward the day when American schoolchildren are taught evolution in the same way as any other well-established scientific idea, without caveats or apologies. With evolution at the center of biology, and thus important to the success of medicine, biotechnology, and agriculture, we can’t afford to keep it bottled up or to kick the can.”

For Further Study – Be Ye Imitators

Questions for you to consider

- Who are we to imitate?
 - Who are we not to imitate?
- What are we to imitate?
 - What are we not to imitate?
- Why are we to be imitators of godly people and of God?

Scriptures to help your consideration

- 1 Co 4:16; 11:1
- Eph 5:1
- 1 Thess 1:6
- 1 Thess 2:14
- Heb 6:12
- Heb 13:7
- 3 Jn 11

Pt 2, Creating a Counter-Culture

1 Corinthians 11:1

06-31-2013

How Do We Counter the Culture - *Answers*

- Answers

- Teach our children to know what we believe and why. 2 Tim 3:15-17

- Biblical Authority

- Teach the truth so that our children can learn the truth.
- Model submission to the authority of God's Word. Jn 14:21; Jas 1:22
- Connect the authority to the Author who gave us His Word. Heb 4:12

- The Gospel

- Yes – proclaim the Gospel. Ro 10:14
- Yes – define the Gospel. 1 Co 15:3f.
- The Gospel is powerful because it is the Word of God. Ro 1:16

- Salvation

- Yes, God has elected/determined those who will be saved. Eph 1; Jer 1:5

Our Children's Salvation – Our Part

- Plant and water the Seed of Truth. 1 Co 3:6*f*.
- Pray that God would give the increase in their hearts. 2 Co 9:10
- Let your life be used as a demonstration of the Power of God. 1 Co 2:1-5; 2 Tim 3:1-5
- Live in submission to God, according to the Word that was preached to you. 1 Pet 1:13-25

Dedication to Service

- This is where our “style” of meeting comes into play.
- Each of us is responsible to model Christ-in-us before each other and each other’s children.
 - Let them learn to imitate you as you imitate Christ. 1 Co 4:14-17; 11:1
- The imitation of Christ is our model for Church growth.
- Each one of us who claim PEFC as our home church is our letter of the introduction of the Gospel to the World.

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NOTES

- Who are we to imitate?, Why?
- Who are we not to imitate?, Why?
- What are we to imitate? Why?
- What are we not to imitate? Why not?
- Why are we to be imitators of godly people, and ultimately of God?