

Announcements:

We have been going through a sermon series entitled: "God is never late"

- Galatians 4:4 – God set up the entire world for Jesus
- Genesis 3 – we found the first promise of Jesus in the Old Testament. You will strike His heel, but He will crush your head. We talked about God keeping His promises through the cross.
- Genesis 6-9 – Jesus came to fulfill the story of Noah – Jesus dealt with the destruction that man has made.
- Last week: Theo dealt with Genesis 15, where he pointed out that God's promises to Abram were dealt with in Jesus. We can trust God.
- This week we will be dealing with how Jesus fulfilled Genesis chapter 11 at the right time. BUT, today I want you to be aware that I am going to try to do something different in my sermon: I usually preach from a manuscript outline that is usually 6-9 pages long. Today, I will be preaching from two page outline.

OFFERING:

Christmas = Debt?

Hot items are all electric: Xbox 360 / iPod Nano / GameBoy Advance Mini

Hebrews 13:16 - *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Romans 13:8 (NLT) - *Pay all your debts, except the debt of love for others. You can never finish paying that! If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill all the requirements of God's law.*

Jesus' hot item: love and grace

When the Time is Right, God answers - Genesis 11:1-9 & Galatians 4:4

How hard it is to speak to someone who doesn't know English?!?

El Salvador hospital - I did not know how to say: I want to go home!

You ever wonder "Why do we have 6,170 languages in the world today?" 336 languages in USA
Language can confuse us! French example:

- So so = Comme ci comme ça - literally: I am there, I am here
- You're welcome = De rien, je vous en prie - literally: From the heart, I am in pleasure
- You've put on weight = Tu as grossi (tu ah gro - si) - literally: You are fatter

Where did this language separation come from? READ Genesis 11:1-9
God confused the languages - WHY? So they wouldn't build. Why?

The Tower of Babel teaches us that God stops those who are against His will!

1. The people were suppose to "fill the earth" - They were in one spot
 - a. Bottom line: They were settling for less than God's will
 - b. What is God's will for you? God has said:
 - i. "go and share" / "go and serve" / "go and love"
2. The people had a pride problem - They built a tower that was for their own glory
 - a. The tower was suppose to be STEPS for God - it symbolized that God lived in their midst, as if they themselves were on the same level as God.
 - b. Bottom line: The need for God was removed. Babel = the gates of God
 - c. What they didn't know is that God does come down, BUT He doesn't use steps
 - d. God hates pride - Proverbs 16:5 (NLT) - The Lord despises pride; be assured that the proud will be punished.
 - i. In the world: People who're teaching our young people that there's no God
 1. Example: "Happy Holidays" in the stores
 - ii. Some Christians: People who are living like there is no God

God stopped them in their tracks because of their failure to follow His commands and their pride problem. The Tower of Babel teaches us that God stops those who're against His will!

Some people doubt the tower's existence. The people look to the fact that there has not been an archeological dig that has found it yet.

The tower of Babel exists even today! While we can't point to one distinct Ziggurat or Tower to say "there it is," the tower of Babel exists in everyone's heart. This tower found in Genesis 11 of brick and mortar represents two things that are in everyone's heart: CONFUSION (anxiety about others) & SEPERATION from them.

Galatians 4:4 - But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son.

This Christmas season, we should see how Christ has come to fulfill the Tower of Babel. This Christmas season, the tower teaches us to do two things:

1. Live like Jesus brings CLARITY
 - a. Looking at other cultures: confusion
 - i. Confusion in Dannon Yogurt - "Please try again"
 1. I opened it wrong
 2. Encouragement - Fruit on the bottom, hope on the top
 - ii. When we look at how other people live, there is often confusion!
 - b. We have the power to overcome this confusion in the message of Christmas
 - i. Galatians 3:28 (NLT) - There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus.
 - c. I believe it, because Jesus has overcome this confusion before:
 - i. Acts 2: At Pentecost = the reversal of Babel (speaking in tongues)
 - ii. Preaching in El Salvador
 - d. Jesus wants us prepared for heaven. In Heaven = one language
 - e. If we are not living like Jesus brings clarity & understanding, then the tower still...
2. Love like Jesus UNITES US
 - a. What got us separated from God? The same thing that got the people separated from each other at the Tower = they went against God's will.
 - b. The tower became a wall, a wall that not only separated the people from God, but also the people were separated from one another.
 - c. Where do we go against God's will? What have we built up that needs to be torn down?
 - d. James 3:12 (MSG) - Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?
 - i. Pride
 1. Our attitudes should be the same as Christ's - Philippians 2
 2. Romans 12:16 - Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
 - ii. Bitterness
 1. When Peter and the apostles were trying to determine if a man was a Christian or not, they looked at his heart. One man was found false:
 - a. Acts 8:23 -For I see that you're full of bitterness & captive to sin.
 2. Ephesians 4:31 - Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
 3. Hebrews 12:15 - See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.
 - iii. Hostility
 1. Ephesians 2:14 (NLT) - For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us.
 - e. If we are not loving like Christ loves, then the tower of Babel still exists in your life.