

# WISDOMSHOUSE



Transcripts from the message shared at Holy Trinity Fellowship, Fort Collins, CO

Holy Trinity - November 20, 2011 - Brett Costigan

I am here in response to the fellowship with Jordan, and his request,. Both being raised in the modern day church and having been a leader in the contemporary church, and now entering into intentional New Testament covenant community, gives me a unique perspective in being able to share about the church.

The series title will be something like, "The Modern Cultural Church and the Early church in New Covenant Community." It is also in single DVD as, "Man's Wisdom = Sub-culture v. God's Wisdom = Counter-culture. This message will be an introduction to the series, as well as starting in on a comparison of how salvation was approached then and now. It's my hope that my words will help those who are either aware or slightly aware of the shaky foundations the modern church is built on. I know many are completely unaware. I say that with great trembling. We are coming into a new thing that has been a journey of great proportion. So when I say foundations I am talking about all we call church. I'm not talking about any one church or stream in Christendom, but a fundamental perspective on how the church is built. I am also hoping that it will help those in the community, and those who are being mentored, and those involved with Wisdom's House in other cities to understand that Wisdom's House is now founded on Holy Trinity. That this community, and this work that is happening here is the foundation on which we are building. It is also very important to understand that the work the Lord is doing at Holy Trinity is a true apostolic work. A pure apostolic work. It is being done by the Holy Spirit through the mantle that has been given to Jordan and GERALYN. Because as others see what is happening we will have a deeper understanding of what an apostolic work looks like. The message of wisdom was rooted here before we came, and will be released for others to hear in many cities.

The truth is we know nothing. It's only the Lord's grace, love and mercy that release us to a place to have vision, to know the day and hour we live, and as we respond to His love and grace and revelation and mercy we begin to see with greater clarity. So that is the context in which these messages will be shared.

By way of Introduction, this is an introduction to a series of messages that will contrast the distance between the early church (New Testament covenant community) and the modern day church.

Jordan has commented that after 20 years Holy Trinity is just coming out of the incubator. This is the only perspective that will help us. So when you use phrases like slow is too fast, it means, "What you think is slow is still too fast." Slow is the new fast. This is the approach we have to take. Because the differences b/w the modern church and covenantal church cannot be captured in one message, or conversation, or book - though all are needed. Only time, diligent seeking, and obedient love by many will make it clear. And not just a few people diligently seeking. If you are here, diligent seeking and obedient love are required of all of us. WE all must lean into what is in front of us. This will release God's wisdom and revelation. This is more than one movement. More than a prayer movement, or a healing movement, or compassion to the poor movement. It affects more than one stream or denomination.

# WISDOMSHOUSE



God showed me something to help grasp distance one night while I was studying the stars. Ever had an 'awe' moment when pondering space. Psalm 19 – The heavens are shouting, constantly revealing His glory. How could it be that the star that looks so huge is actually smaller than many of those little ones out there? Much like Church as we know it, seems so real, bright, but is small in comparison to God's plan. I saw my hands moving in front of me back and forth.

(Giant hands prop) There is a large distance between man's wisdom on the left and God's wisdom on the right, but they are related. Spatial-relationships was the term the Lord gave me. When we are in the realm of man's wisdom, God's wisdom will be diminished. And the distance between God's wisdom and man's is greater than we can begin to imagine.

So Man's wisdom... we find self-centeredness. This is the realm of folly, foolishness, materialism, pride. In this realm we will find fatherlessness. Destruction, individualism, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, darkness, death, lawlessness. Children raising children. This is the realm of anti-Christ. Self-worship. In this realm we find division of every kind. Division between gender, races, and generations. Fear, abandonment, perpetual immaturity. Wickedness, feeling based existence, frazzled.

Man's wisdom is of this age, temporary, it focuses on what can be seen, and it is shakable. Houses built on sand, virgins without oil.

A simple phrase to remember man's wisdom is, "little to no cost with the perception of immediate gain."

God's Wisdom... and man's wisdom must be gone... and it's a journey where we begin to see with heaven's eyes, and we change our perspective and it is a glorious journey into the realm of how God sees things.

First is the cross, the cross is the doorway to God's wisdom. The cross is God's wisdom. In this realm there is light. Perfect light. Selflessness. Everlasting love. Humility. Abundant, vibrant life. In this realm we find maturity in youth. Oneness with God and one another. Unity. The generations made one. The house of God as God intended it to be built. Hope. Tree of Life. Body of Christ working together as one. We find families in the Family. Truth, joy and integrity. Shalom. The oneness of God. Victorious, mature, developed, established, the fullness of Christ, completeness. Community.

God's wisdom is ancient. Which means it comes from the realm of the unseen. God's wisdom is eternal. It is spiritual & unseen. And it is unshakable. A simple phrase to describe God's wisdom is, "Short term cost with long term gain."

The difference b/w these two realms is immeasurable. The danger is when there is a mixture of God's wisdom and man's wisdom. That is a key point. If we are not moving towards the place where we are seeing with heaven's eyes at an increasing measure then our chance for self deception is constantly in our midst. And the key to God's wisdom is the cross.

Now you may have heard that Jesus said in Mark 8:34-39 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him <sup>(A)</sup> deny himself and <sup>(B)</sup> take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For <sup>(C)</sup> whoever would save his life <sup>(D)</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake <sup>(D)</sup> and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup><sup>(E)</sup> For what does

# WISDOMSHOUSE



it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup>For<sup>(E)</sup> what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup>For<sup>(C)</sup> whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this<sup>(H)</sup> adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed<sup>(I)</sup> when he comes in the glory of his Father with<sup>(I)</sup> the holy angels."

What does it mean to take up our cross. Paul helps us in 1 Cor. 2:6-8 Yet among<sup>(A)</sup> the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not<sup>(B)</sup> a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age,<sup>(C)</sup> who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God,<sup>(D)</sup> which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of<sup>(E)</sup> the rulers of this age understood this, for<sup>(E)</sup> if they had, they would not have crucified<sup>(C)</sup> the Lord of glory.

If the rulers of this age would have understood the wisdom of heaven they would have said let Jesus live a long life.. To understand and read what is being said, is that the wisdom of God is this, "death is the doorway to life." The doorway to life is through the cross...our own cross. It's the secret power of death. This cross was God's way before the foundation of the earth and manifested in the early church. And it is destined for our glory.

How can I be clear... that Jesus is everything, and He gave his life for us, so the only appropriate response is that we give everything to Him. Everything.

Heaven's helicopter...because from a place of elevation we begin to see from perspective the current maze and myriad that we have made in the church today. Little mindsets. Hear this with great love... little mindsets and strongholds and pathways of thought that have become so familiar that we know not the difference. 10,000 little thoughts that make up our lives, defining what it means to be a Christian. This series is designed to help define those thought patterns, because those little strongholds accumulate to make big strongholds, big thought patterns that become the culture that is the norm we are used to. And it is important to know that every thought pattern is introduced, backed up and reinforced by the enemy of our souls.

God's wisdom once revealed in the cross is now hidden in this maze of mindsets because we don't understand the cross. But we can ask for this wisdom and be given vision and start our repentance.

We must live a life that is a revelation of the cross. That is why what is happening at Holy Trinity is more profound than we can comprehend.

As I see my life and the message that we carry it will be like we are missionaries to the modern day church. Because of our love for the Lord and the revelation of what He desires in a people, and our love for those who know the Lord but are stuck in a mindset that will not allow them to grasp what He is asking of His people. There is a stewardship to create this place and then to speak to others about it.

When men of God speak it will release faith. Their testimony will prophesy. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Many will speak and people will have faith built in their hearts, and they will see because of your life and words. So there is a call to awaken, reform, change and repent. And it is a large repentance.

# WISDOMSHOUSE



When that call comes out it can come in prophetic message, warnings, messages, or it can come through “come let us reason together.” That is what these messages are. What does it look like in the one way of thinking and what does it look like in the other.

## Salvation

So, now I will transition and talk about this realm of salvation. And I will testify of my experience through the years. I want to start with some statistics..

Ron Luce and Josh McDowell... both of these men have battled for the youth of this generation. There is a uniqueness of those working with youth, because they see a change that causes us to tremble. For those who are separated from youth, there is a sense that it is still like it was when I was in high school. But those who see the change of the mindsets and the bondage young people are entering into know that to be untrue.

Josh McDowell wrote a book, “The Last Christian Generation.” I recently heard a phone interview with him and he was speaking in terms of years before the results of our negligence are upon us. This is not a prophet-kind-of-guy. He is an apologist who has been working with college age students for decades. He is not speaking from a ‘word from the Lord’ but from observation and experience. He said something to the affect that If we don’t wake up within the next 5 years we will see such devastation in the young generation... our future is falling apart. Something is coming and the time is short.

In Josh’s book he quotes George Barna’s “State of the Church” - according to Barna’s research 96% of born again adults and 98% of young people don’t reflect Christ likes attitudes and actions.

Ron Luce wrote, “Battle Cry for a Generation” and he quotes stats from Thomas Rainers “Bridger Generation” book.

Those born b/w 1927 and 1945, 65% were bible based believers.

1945-1964, 35% were bible based believers

1965-83 16% were bible based believers

1984 or later 4% were bible based believers

## Man’s Wisdom = Sub-Culture v. God’s Wisdom = Counter Culture

Statistics cause us to observe we are entering into a pre-pagan culture. The reason that this is because the Christianity we know today is based on an invitation to something that is still within a greater culture.

On the other hand the way that God desires His kingdom to be built is that we would come out of the culture and enter into a counter culture. In that word, culture you can see the word cult. And of course anyone who leaves out of one and enters into another is going to be identified as being in a cult. But we are all in a cult we just choose to leave one and enter into another.

# WISDOMSHOUSE



What Jesus invites us to is so critical. It is more than miracles in the subculture. Jesus culture is an in-breaking of another kingdom that would radically alter every waking moment of one who chose to leave out of one and enter into another. It is a counter culture that still lives in one culture but is drawing down a heavenly realm reflecting God's wisdom, love and kingdom. Why have we become a subculture and not a counter culture? It's because we've moved the ancient boundary stones and the ancient walls have been eroded and destroyed.

Proverbs 22:28.. Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your forefathers.

The one who sets the boundaries is the Father or fathers.

The result of moving the ancient boundary stones is that fatherlessness is the number one social-cultural issue.

We've changed the definitions of many things . . . illustration

Let's say Ft. Collins city council changed the building code. And they said Styrofoam was great building material and it can be used to build houses. And somehow blinded, builders began to build build build. IT is less expensive. It goes up quicker. But there are broken houses everywhere . . .

As it applies to the church. Do we not see the loss of a generation and destruction of family. What will it take to identify our condition and repent. When the ancient boundary is moved suddenly the church in subculture that "looks" counter culture, but it still really is the culture.

I cannot express or relay the trembling we feel, it's greater than we can imagine. And the repentance and change is greater than we can imagine. We've changed definitions by mixing the definitions. Until we identify the ancient foundations and clearly reset them we will still see destruction. We've changed the definition of the cross, salvation, church, communion, family, baptism, house of God, community. In order to restore the ancient foundations and walls we must return to original definitions. Not reformation, but "origination."

When we do our Father said we will see an end to our fatherlessness!

So this message is about salvation. A very important ancient boundary stone. What does it mean to be saved. What do we present to someone when they come to that moment, when it is time for them to consider receiving the salvation of God?

I was part of a ministry that teaches young people how to share their faith. We'd train them how to approach someone. It was very well thought out. Asking questions to bring them to a decision if they wanted to receive salvation . . .

Sharing how many you led to salvation that day . . .

I was a youth pastor, children's pastor and executive pastor.

# WISDOMSHOUSE



All of us understand church service is central in modern day Christianity. This is church. I am going to church. We have a church service. The lived out reality is the Sunday morning experience means I am going to church, and I am a part of the church. Some churches have pre-service prayer where we would pray for God to touch people and bring them to the altar, salvation, making a decision for Christ.

At the service there is worship, announcements and offering. A sense of being willing to let the Holy Spirit move (at some churches this is not the focus), but knowing there are some constraints with time, etc. And then a message. And then an altar call. A clear sense of eternity hanging in the balance. Would you spend eternity with God. Many were spiritually or emotionally moved to respond and say yes. So they would come forward. And there are many who have experienced the Lord in an altar call and have been saved. It's not to say they are not saved. It's just saying where are the ancient boundary stones, because the fruit of our long term efforts says something that we need to pay attention to, because those kind of altar call testimonies of a whole changed life are an exception.

Some churches may have salvation counselors. They'd talk and pray with the person who responded to the altar call, and then they'd give the person a salvation packet. Sometimes the person didn't know why they had come up. Sometimes there were other large issues that couldn't be dealt with in that short time, but they were 'saved'.

I began to see the need for fathering the young and discipling the immature. In pastor's meetings we'd have questions about if your church is discipleship focused or evangelism focused. As I began to see the need for all to be in a place for growth and maturity to happen; for a whole life approach for all who called themselves followers. But making a disciple (one) was very costly and took a lot of time and energy and commitment for one. Much less to walk one through the deliverance and bondage needed for the mind-sets, witchcraft, and perversion this generation is experiencing.

I began to ask where is the sense of the call that it is going to cost you everything. My first experience of any kind of cost was when someone would give an altar call, and he would say go and pray for a week, and make sure you really want to give your life to the Lord, and then if they stood up again the next week they would be allowed to proceed. That was like wow... the fear of the Lord that you would pray about it for a week. My 2<sup>nd</sup> experience was in Japan. This missionary had a group of men who he was discipling... and there was this one who was standing off to the side. And this one was counting the cost, and weighing if he wanted to give his life, because if he did it would mean total rejection by his family.

In Colorado Springs I was in pastoral ministries where there was a hunger and desire for reform like nowhere I had experienced, and for the kingdom of God to break in. But in that season to try and take these ideas and make something of them, was impossible, because the sense was we'd have to scrap everything and start over. This was when we began to have the sense of the epic nature of the change of mindset needed.

## **Some words and phrases comparing the two mind-sets:**

Modern Christianity: decision, but no sense of obligation on church to help the people build a life testimony and be a part of a family.

# WISDOMSHOUSE



Early Church: salvation is a decision that happens in the midst of a people where a lived our reality is the loving evidence of salvation, and is manifested in communion with a people.

In one it's a belief. In the other it's a belief that is inseparable from action and behavior. One is a momentary experience the other is a lifelong move to be united to the Father and the family of God. One is instant transaction the other is a process called conversion.

What are we doing with those who are being saved? This mindset has long been absent from the modern way.

Quotes from the book, "The Change of Conversion and the Origin of Christendom." By Alan Kreider

p. xxiii - Western culture that has dominated the global history for much of the past five hundred years. How powerful this has been, and yet at the millennium's end, how directionless it appears!

p. xiv - My thesis will be that insight into the distinguishing characteristics of Christendom can come through studying the means of conversion that were used to produce it.

p. xiv - In what follows, I will attempt three things. . . . First, in an attempt to distill the essence of conversion in the early centuries of the church, I will tell stories of early Christian converts and examine the processes by which they became Christian. Other scholars have preceded - and accompanied - me in this interest. Pg. xv - Second, I will attempt to chronicle the changing nature of conversion. As the centuries went by and as Christians gained influence and the capacity to induce and compel adherence, the content and configurations of conversion altered. Pg. xvi - Third, I will look at Christendom. I think it is significant that this word - so central to the history of the West - has been used so freely and with so little thought as to its meaning.

p. 1 - Jesus friendship waqs demanding; it led to upheavals in people's beliefs, in their sense of belonging, and in their behavior. . . . Conversion meant change.

p. 2 - What we can report is that when beginning in the second century, we get narratives of conversion, they indicate that change was - and had always been? - what conversion was all about. Let us begin by looking at Justin.

p. 3. - The conversion had changed his life (Justin). The Hebrew prophets has foretold . . . "events which have happened." And the most important of these was the coming of God's Son, the Christ, who had imparted a wisdom superior to all others.

p. 4 - He (Justin) taught of God's character - "temperance and righteousness and love of mankind" - . . . Justins teaching then turned from belief to behavior. His hearers, he knew, would have difficulty living out the teachings of Jesus; they would be locked in "struggle" with demons who would seek to deceive and enslave them with lures of "necessity" - which we may perhaps paraphrase as compulsion and addiction.

p. 5 - For Justin, Christian **belief** led to a discerning of areas of demonic power in society that enslaved people; but the freedom that Christ brought liberated people from addiction and compulsion, and led to distinctive forms of **behavior**. It also led to a unique sense of belonging.

# WISDOMSHOUSE



## Conclusion

I close with a personal testimony about someone I am leading to the Lord right now, and I have put the cross in front of him. I have told him, that, you are giving yourself to something that is completely other than, it will involve a people, it will involve laying down your life and this is the cross, it is the cross Jesus took on for us, and therefore the appropriate response is to lay our life down. There came a moment after several months when there was such hunger in his eyes, and he prayed completely without my leadership the sinner's prayer, because it was so deep within him, and that is not the end that is the beginning. As we now work out what it means to be baptized... which will be my next message in this series.

We are resetting the ancient boundaries which were intended from the beginning.