

The New Testament Church  
 Our Church DNA #1: Called to Apply the Bible  
 Pastor Paul Jehle – October 2, 2022

I Churches, like individuals, have unique callings from God...

- A. The Word of God – the truth of God – we are to apply the Bible to every area of life
  - 1. Psalm 138:1-2 – *His lovingkindness and truth... thy word above all thy name...*
  - 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17 – *profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction...*
    - a. Directly applies to our lives where a situation is parallel
    - b. Indirectly applies through application of principles in context (Bible interprets Bible)
  - 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:19 – *A more-sure word of prophecy (applying the Bible to our present situation)*
  - 4. Psalm 119:05 – *Word is a lamp to our feet (it gives personal guidance)*
  - 5. Psalm 12:6 – *The words of the Lord are pure, tried in a furnace seven times (cross examined)*
- B. The Kingdom of God and kingdom of darkness contrasted...

The Kingdom of God (Mt. 5:14-16)	The Kingdom of Darkness (Eph. 2;2; 6:12)
(Kingdom of God moves bottom up / inside-out)	(Kingdom of darkness moves top-down by force)
Nations set free from darkness	Lucifer rules the world through national rulers
Churches / Cities set free from darkness	Cities ruled by nations and states
Families set free from darkness	Families in bondage to familiar spirits
Individuals set free from darkness	Individuals in bondage to wicked spirits

- 1. Eph. 1:4 indicates that like individuals, churches are called from the foundation of the world
- 2. Each church is called to be *separate* unto God, and also *have a testimony* that impacts others
- 3. Eph. 1:9-10 also indicates that we can discern this call *in time* – how God reveals it in history
- C. The historic roots of The New Testament Church confirm our call to this geographic area...
  - 1. The deed of July 21, 1669 between the Pilgrims and Herring Pond Natives
  - 2. Our church helped the town start “founders day” on July 21, 1989 – 320<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - 3. Two sources have helped us understand the roots of our church to discern our calling
    - a. Sarah McLean’s *Cape Cod Folks*, 1881, Grace Nye’s letters with Papa Calhoun
    - b. As a result of native revivals, the third church (Pondville) was established in 1854
  - 4. Eph. 2:10 indicates that we fulfill our calling – our works are prepared from eternity past!

II The Scriptures applied to all churches; yet in light of our history it reveals our Calling

- A. The Scriptures and our church’s history reveal our calling to apply the Bible to every area
  - 1. Residents of Cedarswamp attended native churches where they were led to Christ and disciplined, demonstrating Biblical unity (covenant)
  - 2. A *community church* where discipleship improves society with self-government
  - 3. Youth and adults worked together in prayer – it was a multi-generational vision...
  - 4. The heritage of America’s history and our church - illustrated on the bell – July 4, 1901
- B. Our Church covenant of 1988 was a culmination of understanding our history...
  - 1. We are called to be both a bride and a city – Revelation 21:2
    - a. As a church, we are called to walk in covenant with God, growing in the Word of God
    - b. We are to walk with one another in relationships, initiating help when we see it
    - c. Discipleship through Bible studies, home fellowships, and spontaneous gatherings
  - 2. We are called to be a city set on a hill – a model of self-government – Matthew 5:14
    - a. As a church, we apply the Bible on how to serve our neighbors, meeting their needs
    - b. God has opened strategic avenues for serving our community – *food collection, service through historic parades, candidate forums, and as a community center...*
    - c. Discipling nations – strategic missionary contacts who believe we ought to preach a full gospel that includes the *influence of the culture*