**Abundant Life Church**

**Sunday, August 16, 2020**

**Series Theme:**

*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.***1 Corinthians 16:13 (NASB)**

**Text:**

18  And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.   
19  But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;   
20  for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."   
**Acts 4:18-20 (NASB)**

We have a mission to complete. That is to faithfully share the testimony of Jesus Christ, His resurrection and indestructible life.

If we fall silent-

**Beggars Stay Beggars**

9  And all the people saw him walking and praising God;   
10  and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to *beg* alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.   
**Acts 3:9-10 (NASB)**

**The inherit God-given worth of each individual. – Beggars are not cursed by God but loved by Him!**

Whatever mess your in – deal with it. No hope anything could be different.

The Physically Disabled – Joni, paraplegic who glorifies God

*“This paralysis is my greatest mercy.” ―****Joni Eareckson Tada***

The Physically Abused will just have to live in their pain forever

The Addicted will be told to just have more will power… Teen Challenge

The Convict always be a Convict…. No Jail Ministry

The Immoral can never have their purity restored

You must find those in our community who are living with an impossibility and speak the name of Jesus over them. God is for them and you and I have something they need.

**There is No Fresh Start with God**

19  "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;   
20  and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,   
**Acts 3:19-20 (NASB)**

**Repentance**

[***Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World***](https://www.amazon.com/Dominion-Christian-Revolution-Remade-World/dp/0465093507), came as something of a surprise for several reasons. First, **Tom Holland is not a Christian**. Second, Holland’s book is one of the most ambitious historical defenses of Christianity in a very long time.

While studying the ancient world, Holland writes, he realized something. Simply, the ancients were cruel, and their values utterly foreign to him. The Spartans routinely murdered “imperfect” children. The bodies of slaves were treated like outlets for the physical pleasure of those with power. Infanticide was common. The poor and the weak had no rights.

**From *There* to *Here* …**

How did we get from *there* to *here*? It was Christianity, Holland writes. Christianity revolutionized sex and marriage, demanding that men control themselves and prohibiting all forms of rape. Christianity confined sexuality within monogamy. (It is ironic, Holland notes, that these are now the very standards for which Christianity is derided.) Christianity elevated women. In short, Christianity utterly transformed the world.

In fact, Holland points out that without Christianity, the Western world *would not exist*. Even the claims of the social justice warriors who despise the faith of their ancestors rest on a foundation of Judeo-Christian values. Those who make arguments based on love, tolerance, and compassion are borrowing fundamentally Christian arguments. If the West had not become Christian, Holland writes, “no one would have gotten woke.”

<https://stream.org/atheists-in-praise-of-christianity/>

**Free From Shame**

The sense of shame will never be lifted from any life.

The burden of all our failures will continually nag us, day and night

All the voices that have accused us will never be silent

The voice in our mind which condemns us will never be silent

Our sins will remain, hung around the neck like a millstone as we descend to the depths

I’m thinking about a young lady who signed her child away, while in the haze of drugs, but who is now clean. Satan is living two inches from her face, accusing her, humiliating her, embarrassing her, shaming her…there is only one, JESUS, who stands between all the voices of condemnation and the fallen soul.

Some years ago, I met with a lady who had been unfaithful to her husband as a young woman. One Time but now in her 80’s. What a joy to tell Jesus has taken it all and she will not stand before God as an adulterer but redeemed by the blood of the lamb.

**We Deny the Fallen their Way of Escape**

 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."   
**Acts 4:12 (NASB)**

You will forever be forced to hope that your good works will somehow outweigh your bad deeds. FOOLS GOLD. You failed last week so this week you had better be extra good.

You can work on a positive attitude

You can earn money and dress nice

You can get an education and properly enunciate your words

You can give to non-profits and work to help people

You can be nice & kind

We can sing John Lennon’s Imagine or We Are The World and get some feel good vibes…

But there is nothing, apart from Jesus Christ that can ever wash you clean and make you able to stand before God almighty.