

## Sermon outline for August 24, 2008

**Title:** What Are You Reaching For? The Six Directions of Three-Dimensional Ministry

**Scripture lesson:** 1 Peter 2:4-9

**Key verse:** 1 Peter 2:9 *You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* 1 Peter 2:9

1. **Reach up to God** - Matthew 22:37-38  
God loves you and wants to have a living, growing, two-way relationship with you.
2. **Reach down to the world** - Amos 5:15  
The systems, institutions, and media of our culture affect the daily lives of millions, and God expects us to see that they reflect God's values of justice, mercy, and freedom.
3. **Reach in to yourself** - 2 Peter 1:5-7  
You have tremendous potential – you were created to be like Jesus! – and God wants to help you reach it, but it takes perseverance and work on your part.
4. **Reach out to family and friends** - Ephesians 5:33  
Healthy, growing personal relationships are a vital part of life, especially Christian life.
5. **Reach across to people who don't know Jesus** - Mark 16:15  
Thousands of people around us and around the world are living and dying without knowing the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ.
6. **Reach over to brothers and sisters in Christ** - John 13:35  
Christians need each other for fellowship, care, support, accountability, and growth.

*Prepare your heart and mind by reading and meditating on next week's sermon passage ahead of time: Psalm 130.*

## Sermon outline for August 31, 2008

**Title:** Six Directions 2: Reach Up to God

**Scripture lesson:** Psalm 63

**Key verse:** Jeremiah 29:13-14a <sup>13</sup>*When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart,* <sup>14</sup>*I will let you find me, says the LORD.* Jeremiah 29:13-14a

Reach up to God to

- ❖ Celebrate
- ❖ Thank
- ❖ Praise
- ❖ Worship
- ❖ Confess
- ❖ Surrender
- ❖ Offer
- ❖ Ask
- ❖ Receive
- ❖ Testify

*Prepare your heart and mind by reading and meditating on next week's sermon passage ahead of time: Isaiah 1:1-20.*

## Sermon outline for September 7, 2008

**Title:** Six Directions of a Three-Dimensional Life #3: Reach Down to the World

**Scripture lesson:** Isaiah 1:11-20

**Key verse:** Amos 5:24 *Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.* Amos 5:24

- ❖ Throughout the world, the places that most respect freedom and human rights are the places where Christianity has had the most influence on the culture.
- ❖ Jesus' job description - Luke 4:18-19 *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."*
- ❖ God is not impressed by religion that doesn't work for good – "on earth as it is in heaven" (Isaiah 1:11-14)
- ❖ A nation's injustice will block its prayers (Isaiah 1:15)
- ❖ We can change things (Isaiah 1:16)
- ❖ God tells us what he wants (Isaiah 1:17)
  - Learn to do good
  - Seek justice
  - Correct oppression
  - Defend the fatherless
  - Plead for the widow
- ❖ It's not too late to turn and receive God's forgiveness and blessing (Isaiah 1:18-19)
- ❖ God will not tolerate continued injustice (Isaiah 1:20)

*Prepare your heart and mind by reading and meditating on next week's sermon passage ahead of time: 2 Peter 1:1-11.*

## Sermon outline for September 14, 2008

**Title:** Six Directions of a Three-Dimensional Life #4: Reach In to Yourself

**Scripture lesson:** 2 Peter 1:1-11

**Key verse:** 2 Peter 1:3 *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.* 2 Peter 1:3

- o The key to everything you need is knowing God and acting on his promises (verses 1-4)
  - o Faith
  - o Grace
  - o Peace
  - o Life
  - o Godliness
  - o Glory
  - o Excellence
  - o Escape from the corruption of this world
  - o A share in God's divine nature
- o Therefore we must make every effort to receive what God has promised (verses 5-7)
  - o Faith, which God has given to everyone (Romans 12:3)
  - o Goodness
  - o Knowledge
  - o Self-control
  - o Patient endurance and perseverance
  - o Godliness – a focus on knowing, loving, living for, and becoming like God
  - o Affectionate friendliness
  - o The God-kind of love
- o Keep working to receive these promises (verses 8-11)
  - o You will be effective and fruitful for God
  - o You will never fall away, but enter God's eternal kingdom

*Prepare your heart and mind by reading and meditating on next week's sermon passage ahead of time: Ephesians 5:21-6:4.*

## Sermon outline for September 21, 2008

**Title:** Six Directions of a Three-Dimensional Life 5: Reach Out to Family and Friends

**Scripture lesson:** Ephesians 5:21-6:4

**Key verse:** Ephesians 5:21 *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* Ephesians 5:21

- ❖ *Out of reverence for Christ*
  - o Jesus is our example for submission (Philippians 2:1-11)
  - o If we revere Jesus we will follow his example
- ❖ *Submit to one another*
  - o Wives to husbands (5:22-24)
  - o Husbands to wives (5:25-33)
  - o Children to parents (6:1-3)
  - o Parents to children (6:4)
  - o Friends to friends (Philippians 2:3)
- ❖ The important thing is not proving you're right, it's strengthening the relationship

*Prepare your heart and mind by reading and meditating on next week's sermon passage ahead of time: Romans 10:1-15.*

## Sermon outline for September 28, 2008

**Title:** Six Directions of a Three Dimensional Life #6: Reach Across to People Who Don't Know Jesus

**Scripture lesson:** Romans 10:1-15

**Key verse:** Romans 10:14 *How can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?* Romans 10:14

- ❖ 1-4 Many people try to be spiritual on their own terms
  - o They try to earn God's approval by not breaking rules
  - o They don't understand God's plan of true spirituality
- ❖ 5-7 God is not beyond human reach
  - o We don't have to be perfect in keeping rules
  - o We don't have to climb up to heaven
  - o We don't have to pin our hopes on a dead prophet
- ❖ 8-10 God has placed himself where anyone can reach him
  - o In the belief of your heart
  - o In the words of your mouth
- ❖ 11-13 God responds to anyone who calls on him
- ❖ 14-15 God is counting on us to get that message to those who don't yet know God
  - o They can't call on God if they haven't believed in God
  - o They can't believe in God unless they hear of God
  - o They can't hear of God unless someone tells them of God
  - o We need to encourage each other to tell people of God
  - o When we invite people to know God, it makes us look beautiful in God's sight

*Prepare your heart and mind by reading and meditating on next week's sermon passage ahead of time: Acts 11:19-30.*