

4 August 2013 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost/L.I.T.S. #4.

Readings: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–23; Psalm 49:1–12; Colossians 3:1–11; Luke 12:13–21. **Theme: “Why want Him?”**
“Now **eagerly desire** the greater gifts.” - 1 Corinthians 12:31.



INTRO: “Why want Him?”... All sorts of reasons. Cf. James 4:3, “...wrong motives...” Here are three of the BEST reasons...



I. For GOD’s sake!

Psalm 34:8, “Taste and see that **the LORD is good.**” Cf. **John 3:16.**

Moses. Exodus 33:13-15, “...teach me your ways **so I may know you and continue to find favour with you.** Remember that this nation is your people.” The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Then Moses said to him, “**If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.**”

David. Psalm 27:4, “**One thing** I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, **to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.**”

Philippians 3:10, 14, “**I want to know Christ**—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death... **one thing** I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward **the goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”



Every Day for Every Man - August 1, “top of any summit.”



II. For OUR (the Church’s) sake.

1 Corinthians 12:7, 14:12, “Now to each one **the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good**... Since you are eager for **gifts of the Spirit**, try to excel in those that **build up the church.**”



Ephesians 3:10, 14, 16, “His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms... For this reason I kneel before the Father... **I pray** that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power **through his Spirit** in your inner being.”

Matthew 5:16, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds **and glorify your Father in heaven.**”

Luke 24:49, 53, “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high... And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.””

Acts 1:8, 14, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth... They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.””



The Heavenly Man, Brother Yun, “In China, the greatest miracles we see are not healings or other things, but **lives transformed by the gospel**. We believe we’re not called to follow signs and wonders but instead the signs and wonders follow us when the gospel is preached.”



III. For the sake of the WORLD.

John 3:16-17, “For God so **loved the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son **into the world** to condemn the world, but **to save the world** through him.”

John 17:21, “Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that **the world** may believe that you have sent me.”

Matthew 28:18-19, “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of **all nations**...””

2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead **he is** patient with you, not **wanting** anyone to perish, but **everyone to come to repentance.**”

Philippians 2:5, 10, “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus... that at the name of Jesus **every knee** should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and **every tongue** acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Acts 4:29-31, “Now, Lord, consider their threats and **enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.**” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

CONCLUSION: “The truth is in the proof is when you hear your heart start asking, ‘What’s my motivation?’” Bigger barns? “Do you love Jesus?” “Do you love the Church?” “Do you love the world the way Jesus does?” If so, may the Spirit of God fill you to be the light of the world, in Jesus’ name. Amen. – Pastor Aldi ☺