

NO PASSENGERS

DATE: SUNDAY, 19TH JANUARY 2020 | SERIES: ENGAGE - PART: 1

EPHESIANS 1:22

And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.

EPHESIANS 3:10-11

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, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine ... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

NOTE TO LEADERS:

Two big outcomes for this week:

1. Connect people with the idea that we should all be actively involved in the local church.
2. Prepare your group for the Best Seller churchwide campaign coming up. Aim to spend 15 minutes on the Start Doing exercise.

START TALKING

1. What is your one key takeaway from this weekend?
2. What is your dream holiday? A cruise? Relaxing on a tropical island? An adventure that gets the adrenaline going? Exploring historic landmarks?

START THINKING

1. Read Ephesians 1:22. Paul uses the analogy of a body to describe the church community. Life groups make up a large part of our church 'body'. What are the things that you appreciate most about this life group? And in what ways has being part of this group helped you grow spiritually?
2. Read Ephesians 3:10-11. Paul speaks of the church being the vehicle that reflects the wisdom of God to the world. Steve also spoke about aircraft carriers being the "forward presence" of the country they represent. How do you think we reflect Christ to the world (our friends, family and local community) on a practical level?

START SHARING

1. On Sunday, Steve asked us to consider two questions:
 - What is your relationship with Christ-like?
 - What is your relationship with Christ's church like?
 Over the last few months, how has your engagement with God and His church been at a personal level?

When you go through seasons of not engaging with God and His church as much as you would like to, what do you find helpful in increasing your 'engagement levels'?

2. On an aircraft carrier, there are so many different job roles ranging from pilots and flight deck crew to engineers, cooks, medics and more. Similarly, in the local church, there are many different areas we can get involved to serve. Are you currently serving somewhere in the church? What do you do in this role, and what do you like most about it? If not, in which area do you think you could get involved?

START PRAYING

Spend time praying for boldness and courage to invite friends to come to the Bestseller series. And the passion to grow in your relationship with Christ and His Church.

START DOING

In three weeks, we begin our Bestseller series. This week, create a list of who you could invite to come along:

- Family (immediate & extended)
- Friends & neighbours (and people you regularly chat to at the gym, school pick-up etc.)
- Work colleagues and professional acquaintances
- Fellowship (friends who are attending CityHill Church but not already in a life group)

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

We had an incredibly uplifting and inspiring time at "Vision" this past weekend, culminating in a challenging preach from Steve on Sunday as we kicked off our Engage series.

We began by looking at three Scriptures from the book of Ephesians, which was written to the church in Ephesus. In Ephesians, we see two great themes woven together - Christ and the church:

1. *And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.* Ephesians 1:22. This Scripture speaks to the supremacy of Christ, who is the head over everything!
2. *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, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Ephesians 3:10-11. There is a real battle going on with a real devil and real obstacles. But God says that He is going to bring about something so amazing, so radical and so unique that it will display all of His wisdom, and it is called the church. Men and women who understand that they are:
 - ... called out
 - ... made new
 - ... living in a radical community
 - ... with hope and purpose and love and kindness
 - ... growing and changing and caring enough to do something about the problems in the world.
 - ... agents of hope and change and Christ's love being shared into the world.
 The church is the vehicle which reflects Christ to the world.
3. *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine ... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.* Ephesians 3:20-21.

For the church, through the church, and in the church - there is no option for a relationship with Jesus without the church. With that in mind, Steve challenged us to answer two questions:

1. What is your relationship with Christ-like?

- He's the Head of the church
- Saviour of our souls
- Loves us more than we could ever know.

If He was to return tomorrow, how will He view your excuses for not spending time with Him?

2. What is your relationship with Christ's church like?

- I am not yet a Christian. Still seeking
- I am new to faith, still figuring out "church"
- I am saved but uncommitted to a local church/visit occasionally
- I attend services regularly, but am not very involved
- I grew hurt and disillusioned with the church, so I have withdrawn
- I am connected, committed and involved in a local church. (This is

how we were designed to live!)

At the end of 2019, at the NCMI KZN Equip in Pietermaritzburg, Stan Phipps from Glenridge Church shared a prophetic word from God for CityHill: "...you are called to be an aircraft carrier.... an aircraft carrier because it is nuclear powered is able to come alongside a small city and provide power for that city while it gets rebuilt... an aircraft carrier has the ability to release teams on short term missions, helicopter people into spaces and then bring them back to that space. An aircraft carrier has the ability to take very large planes and launch them, but because they are so big, they can't come back again, so they are one-way missions... I feel like CityHill is moving into a season like an aircraft carrier like never before."

Steve unpacked some of this word by looking at the differences between an aircraft carrier and a cruise ship. The primary goal of a cruise ship is pleasure and entertainment - to keep everyone happy! Whereas the aim of an aircraft carrier is to advance the agenda of the country it represents by carrying out orders. So what does this mean for us in the context of this prophetic word?

1. On an aircraft carrier, there are no passengers - only crew

When we're in cruise ship mode, it's all about our happiness and enjoyment, but on an aircraft carrier, each one of us has a specific role to fulfil to carry out the mission. The aircraft carrier represents the forward presence of God's Kingdom.

2. We need to change our mindsets to being onboard an aircraft carrier

This means our mindset regarding Sunday services and life group involvement. Some of us may need to change our mindset regarding our children - with a cruise ship mentality we're trying to keep them happy by doing whatever they feel like doing. But with an aircraft carrier mindset, we teach them the importance of obeying the Commander-in-Chief. There is a need for them to understand that we are in a war. They will grow up to leave home one day and live out their own adult lives in this world, and they need a sense of God's purpose, calling and guidance over their lives. This is extremely difficult to model if they grow up seeing us (their parents) half-hearted in our commitment to Christ and His church.

Finally, Steve shared some of our vision for our year ahead.

- We're looking to have two Christmas services and three Carols services at the end of 2020!
- We've launched a business mentoring programme
- Our CityLife Leadership Academy is up and running
- We're preparing our hearts to sow into our Above & Beyond Building Project
- On the 9th of February, we begin our six-week church-wide series, BestSeller (6 weeks of looking at how to understand the Bible better)
 - Invite people to join your group
 - If you're not in a group - join one
 - Consider leading a six-week group