



CHRIST
EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (PCA)

Sermon Reflection Guide; John 10:27

1. You have heard the pastors at CEPC often use the phrase “the ordinary means of grace”. What does this mean and what are the ordinary means of grace?
2. Read John 10:27. Jesus says that his sheep hear his voice and follow him. How do we hear God’s voice today?
3. Based on what Jesus says in John 10:27 what should our worship services be full of? Why does it matter the kinds of prayers we pray, the kinds of songs we sing and the kinds of sermons that are preached? What difference does it make if those things are full of God’s Word or not?
4. Worshiping God Lord’s Day after Lord is not just something that we do, but worshiping God Lord’s Day after Lord’s Day does something to us. What does it do to us? Conversely what does neglecting the Lord’s Day do to us?

Sermon Summary

Dr. Duncan's sermon from this Sunday on John 10:27 was a "thematic" sermon focused on the "ordinary means of grace" with a special emphasis on preaching. The ordinary means of grace are the means by which we as believers access God's grace and grow in holiness. They are the preaching of the word, prayer and the right administration of the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism. It is through these ordinary means that we come to a knowledge of our sin and need for Christ, that we commune with God and that we grow in our understanding of God and his word. Dr. Duncan focused on Christ's emphasis on hearing his voice in John 10:27 which says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Jesus' words here relay the great importance of his voice and the obligation of his followers to listen to God's voice.

We may ask ourselves what does all this have to do with preaching and worship services? Dr. Duncan's aim was to answer this very question. The reason that our worship services at CEPC are so focused on the word of God is because God's word is the voice of the master. Many people today wonder how they can hear God's voice and the answer is found in his word. Today we hear God's voice through our reading and understanding of the Bible. This is why our songs and our prayers, and our preaching must be saturated by God's word. Every week our aim is to read God's Word, sing God's Word, pray God's Word and preach God's Word. We do all this unto the end that Christ's sheep may hear the voice of the master.

It is no secret that the world makes a concerted effort to disciple us all in their ways. Therefore, we as Christians must hold an even greater commitment to be disciplined not by the voice of the world but by God's voice. One of the main ways that we do this is through the Lord's Day worship service. Worshiping God Lord's Day after Lord is not just something that we do, but worshiping God Lord's Day after Lord's Day does something to us. Namely it disciplines us. It teaches us and instructs us and corrects us and heals us and grows us and matures us. This is why we must hold the assembly of the saints on the Lord's Day as such a great priority. It is through this that we come to trust and love God even greater.

This of course translates to the content of preacher's sermons. Preacher's must be committed to preaching that exposes the congregation to God's voice. Today many preachers are focused on sermons that will give people tips for life, are full on interesting stories and that entertain people. However, because of John 10:27 we know that a preacher's greatest concern should be that God's people listen to God's voice. And not only that they hear it but as Jesus says that we actually live in obedience and follow him. It is not enough that we know God or hear his voice, being a follower of Christ means that we actually follow Christ! Therefore, Jesus tells his disciples in Matthew 28 to make disciples of all nations by teaching them to "obey" all that Christ commanded. Not simply to teach them what Christ commanded, but teaching them to obey.

This is why we preach the kind of sermons that we preach at CEPC. This is why we preach sermons that are focused on expositing a text of Scripture and sermon series that take us through a book of the Bible in its entirety. We do this that by God's help and through the Holy Spirit we may all hear God's voice and obey it. As we do we will find ourselves growing up into maturity by God's grace.