

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021
GRACE DOCTRINE CHURCH
CRISIS MANAGEMENT

When I heard from Joe asking if I could fill in this morning, I immediately said yes but after putting my phone down I thought, “What in the heck am I going to say Sunday morning?” I always have a couple of studies in the oven to be ready but when I think about how much Bible Doctrine has been taught from this pulpit my mind always vectors to, “What can I teach this congregation that our pastor hasn’t already taught them?” So, I always try to come up with a subject that I can make practical or say it in a different way or even just take you back to the basics that will help you recall what you already know.

So today we’re going to look at “Crisis Management**” and hopefully by the end of the second session I can tie it all together and give you something to think about and challenge you with. So, hang on and let’s get started.**

We live in a crazy world and so many Christians are at a loss as to why God is allowing all this craziness and chaos to happen in our country. There is a lot of wringing of hands and gnashing of teeth. It’s some of the craziest things I’ve ever seen in my life. I know I’m saying, “Come Lord Jesus**”, and the rapture couldn’t happen soon enough. But we’re not going to discuss the rapture so get those thoughts out of your head.**

Almost everyone wants to talk about high inflation, vaccine mandates, crime, jobs that are lost, what’s going on in the

schools with Critical Race Theory is really pushing parents to the limit and gender pronouns are very troubling for parents especially Christian parents and on and on it goes.

Then you have other individuals who have one crisis in their life after another. Many lives are falling apart because of things mentioned above. Then add to this what used to be good is now evil and what used to be evil is now good.

We also have 24-hour news which is full of disasters and tragedies. Just in the last couple of weeks we have seen young people killed in a school shooting, the criminal who drove through the Christmas Parade. How do you handle these events?

We all have crisis in our lives and to us they are the most horrible things in the world and many people just fall apart. We don't understand why all this is happening. I hear Christians say all the time with what's going on in my life and what's happening to our country I don't think I can take it anymore. Others make all sorts of excuses for what's happening and then others just throw up their hands in despair.

But when you ask them about their spiritual life, they immediately start making excuses. Many times, they respond, "You have no idea what's been going on in my life." I don't need to hear what's going on in their lives because I have plenty going on in my own life or I can look at the empty seats at this church and tell there must be a lot of important things going on in people's lives or the seats would be full. I think the verse we need to remember is Hebrews 10:25: **"Not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near."**

Let's start with a principle: The first thing we need to remember is that every crisis in the life of a believer is a chance to glorify God. How? By using the great spiritual life, you have been provided.

How about using the resources you have? How about the incredible Problem-Solving Devices, like Grace and Doctrinal Orientation and Sharing the Happiness of God and in personal relationships how about a little impersonal love. We could even use the Royal Law that our Pastor has taught us over and over!!

We use the Problem-Solving Devices starting with #1, #2, and #3. YOU MUST BE ABLE TO USE THE Faith Rest Drill. We think about how He is always faithful. With the Faith Rest Drill, you have over 7,000 promises in the Bible to pull from.

We can choose to focus on our problems or on the solution to our problems which is the Lord Jesus Christ and His word.

When we focus on our problems, they get bigger and bigger but when we focus on the remedies of the Word of God, our problems seem to shrink away.

Psalm 55:22: "Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken."

Isaiah 41:10: "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will also help you, I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:13: "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'"

Of course, you can't use any of these if you don't have any maturity. Maybe you don't even been listen when you do make it to Bible Class? Application is the hard part isn't it. Anyone can talk a great game but it's a lot harder to apply the Word of God to life and circumstances.

There is a greater purpose in tragedies, in misfortune, in disaster, in accidents. There's always a greater purpose and that's God's plan.

What you do with a little problem determines what you will do with a big problem. In life little problems are just practice. It's a chance for you to use what you have, to learn to use what you have when the big problem comes along.

But you've got to practice before you can do that. You practice, practice, practice. Don't get upset with a little adversity – USE IT AS PRACTICE! IT WILL BUILD CONFIDENCE AND MAKE IT EASIER TO USE THE WORD OF GOD IN YOUR SOUL NEXT TIME! I PROMISE.

Many individuals have challenges going on in their lives right now and our country is falling apart and yet there are open seats at this church and at other doctrinal churches across America where truth is taught. This place should be packed. We're being fed "filet mignon", not milk! But you must be a "truth seeker" to show up.

The believer glorifies God by handling a crisis using the Word of God in the soul, using divine resources, using the Problem-Solving Devices, having a faith rest attitude. Grace and doctrinal orientation.

You have adversity in your life? Don't just think about the adversity think about the solution. Then when the bigger thing hits, you're ready.

PRINCIPLE: If you can't handle the small things, you will be destroyed by the big things.

My question is? Can you use faith-rest through it all? It's a great test of the potency of your spiritual life in all adversities.

Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 145:18-19: "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

Vs.19: he will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them."

By the way you might fail initially but that does not mean you are a total failure. When you take stock of where you are, what your attitude is then you recover.

When you have Bible Doctrine in your soul it will come to the fore front when needed. You'll have a few moments where you lose it. But it's there. It had better be there or you won't have anything to utilize, and you will fall apart.

How many times have you heard someone say they're depressed? I've heard it more than I can count, and I've even said it in the past. You may even get downhearted because it doesn't look like God is doing anything. Do you think He doesn't know what's going on? Are you going to grow in grace and trust His plan is perfect? The hardest thing is to trust in His plan and await His will!

Here's a principle for you: **We must learn that when it comes to adversity, we are delivered through the difficulties not out of difficulties.**

You may not get out of it, but you have the spiritual life to get through it and to glorify God by using the spiritual life.

Deliverance through difficulties shows the true value in the resources of the spiritual life and of the Problem-Solving Devices.

God does not always lift difficult circumstances off believers to keep them from suffering. We have a tendency to think if God is good, and God is great and God is loving He'll take this stuff off of me. He'll remove it.

Suffering has benefit for believers. It's not bad. That's another lesson we need to learn. Suffering has benefits. We grow exponentially through suffering. Through the Lord delivering us through it we learn to depend on the Lord and the Problem-Solving Devices.

We are prepared then to represent God to the world by using these skills developed in metabolizing Bible Doctrine and living the spiritual life and that's what glorifies God. The overall purpose for our lives in this world as Christians and the skills to handle all adversity.

Isaiah 40:31: "Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."

Gain strength through adversity that's what the Christian life does for you if your patient, if you wait for the will of God to unfold. Continue your advance. Let your light shine.

In John 8:12 and John 9:5 Jesus Christ is referred to as the light of the world.

John 8:12: "Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 9:5: "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

Jesus Christ illuminates this world! How? By His word, His truth, His thinking.

It is the light of truth which guides the believer in life, and it keeps you from stumbling in the darkness of Human Viewpoint.

Did you know any time you are walking in darkness you are outside of the bounds of God's plan? Any time Bible Doctrine is not in you there is no light.

Darkness is the place of stumbling in the Christian life. No mission accomplishments in the Plan of God for you. No solutions to problems in life. You'll flounder in the face of all problems in life. Problems will get to you. You'll have a miserable time dealing with problems and adversity. You'll have fear and failure. Failure in the Christian life.

The Christian life is so easy. Either you have light in you or you have darkness. You either have Divine Viewpoint or you live in Human Viewpoint. You either solve problems God's way or flounder and fail. It's that simple. The solution is simple. Get some light. Get some truth. Renovate your thinking.

This is why the light in us is so important. The light of Divine Viewpoint. There is no substitute.

1 John 1:6-7: "If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

Vs.7: But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

This is the warning. Walk in the light. Here's the mandate to walk in the light. Those who stumble are not filled with the Holy Spirit, they're out of fellowship.

1 John 1:6-7 says "walk in the light" that is to believers. Then it says you've got to be "filled with the Holy Spirit". You have got to name your sins and stay in fellowship

Those who stumble are not living in the light of God's word. They're not living in fellowship with God the Holy Spirit. There is no application of that truth in the life of the stumbling believer.

When you as a believer fail in the Christian life don't expect you'll have a great temporal life. You will not! You'll have plenty of discipline and you'll cause plenty of your own problems through bad decisions.

Because you have no light in you – no truth. No absolutes and you'll fall for anything. You'll fall for the darkness of Human Viewpoint, the darkness of relativity, humanism, or some politician who promises everything and cannot deliver.

PRINCIPLE: Only the light of Bible Doctrine in your soul can illuminate your way in the spiritual life.

John 11:9-10: "Jesus replied, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

Vs.10: "But if anyone walks during the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

The truth of God's word in you must illuminate your path.

**Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path."**

If the plan of God is more real to you than your little or big problems in life, then here's a promise for you.

Isaiah 40:31: “Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.”

You must live at the discretion of our Lord and in His timing and you will “gain strength” for living. That’s the secret to the Christian life.

People get weak in adversity, problems, disasters, etc. People lose it in adversity and misfortune. We run to a psychiatrist in adversity, we go to counselors, we beg people for help, most people don’t know what to do and that includes Christians.

Adversity for you, the believer, is using the spiritual life is “gaining strength”. That’s the way it always is in the Christian life. Everything humanism says is right and wrong; in the Christian life is exactly the reverse. It’s what makes it so great.

PRINCIPLE: There are no tragedies in the Plan of God for the believer. There are difficulties and adversities, there is grief and heartache, there are accidents, personal disasters, historical upheavals, but there is no tragedies for the believer in Jesus Christ.

Tragedy means there was no purpose for the event. Therefore, tragedy cannot occur in the Christian life. God has a purpose in everything that happens in your life.

If any exigency for the believer can be called a tragedy for the believer, it would indicate that God’s plan is flawed and that He had no purpose for suffering.

If there are tragedies it would mean that there is something God did not foresee. That something snuck up on God or something God did not plan for. That there are circumstances of which He has no control or influence. That

His timing is imperfect. That His power, love, justice, sovereignty, is lacking. IMPOSSIBLE!

When you understand that God uses all personal events and human history in general (for what purpose) to inevitably move a person or mankind to the fruition of His great plan and to victory in the Angelic Conflict and that includes the evil that man and Satan perpetrate.

These events may cause you pain and difficulty, but you need to realize that God uses all of this to work together for your good (Romans 8:28**). To further your spiritual advance, to bring about God's glorification, and to fulfill His big picture plan in your life, the life of others and even history. This is the Plan of God Rational!**

PRINCIPLE: There is no pain, no sorrow, or disaster, greater than the doctrine in your soul. You will always take comfort in the Plan of God Rational.

No matter what the Plan of God marches on in everything that happens to you. Keep taking in Bible Doctrine and keep applying it!!

Remember you are set apart "sanctified" in several ways. One is you are sanctified from the "vagaries" of this world. You are set apart from what this world has to offer.

As we study the Word of God, and our soul inventory increases in all of this our Lord's power is seen and the certainty of His plan being fulfilled.

Death is not the winner!! Jesus Christ has overcome death. I told you this before **YOU ARE ON THE WINNING TEAM!!**

Christ has power over death and if that's the case He has power over all things. He controls history and He controls your life for His purposes.

No, you have volition you have to utilize the spiritual life but through everything, through your failures and through your successes in the spiritual life God's plan comes to fruition.

So why not be a part of it rather than a drag on it. It's going to happen with or without you.

Your mission is to glorify God and be a part of the plan succeeding not failing. God will march on without you. But He's given you everything to be a success right along with His plan.

Christ's mission was to bring victory over death and to provide eternal life to those who believe in Him and to provide a spiritual life on this earth that fulfills the Plan of God.

While it also brings contentment, peace, joy, all those fruits of the Spirit that we get being filled with the Holy Spirit and metabolizing Bible Doctrine.

Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness," and by this we glorify God.

1 Peter 1:7-8: "So that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Vs.8: and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,"

Here's the challenge: Where do you find solutions to your problems, challenges, misfortunes? Concerns about this country? Let me tell you this country cannot be fixed until we fix the spiritual problem in this nation.

In a lot of local churches, it's a pastor problem because they have become performers instead of teachers. That's not the case at this church! No excuse!!

Do you cherish your time here in this auditorium taking in doctrine and I include our Dorito's who are a part of this church? Because it may not always be an option for us. It may not.

You don't know where we'll be in 6 months, a year, 5 years from now. Do you appreciate the time you can spend here concentrating on Bible Doctrine? To prepare you for whatever is coming up.

We need to appreciate every day what we have in the way of Bible Doctrine. We need to be here to study and grow.

Let me ask you a question. How much do you invest in your spiritual life?

PRINCIPLE: You trust God with your life, but do you trust Him with the little things in your life?

You need to be a "Truth Seekers". Those that are interested in "truth". Those who have not left their "first love".

Revelation 2:4: "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Or those who have become "dull of hearing".

Hebrews 5:11-12: "Concerning Him [Christ Jesus] we have much to say and it is hard to explain (difficult to teach) we have many doctrines to communicate and hard to explain because you have become dull of hearing.

Vs.12: For though by this time you ought to be teachers, but you have need again for someone to teach you the