**July 23, 2017 “That Christ May Dwell in Your Hearts” Ephesians 3:14-17**

Sometimes I feel that it is really unfair of me to stand before you knowing what our message for today contains. I have had the opportunity to study and read in preparation for today’s message and have had the blessing of time spent in study and research.

These things give me an unfair advantage. I can come to our fellowship today with much anticipation. I have had the opportunity to stand amazed at what God has contained in His Word as it relates to our message today. I have a hard time to put into words the wonderment of seeing or comprehending the intricacies of God’s Word as it relates to our subject today which is’ “That Christ May Dwell in Your Hearts”.

I have the advantage of knowing the subject and discussing that subject with others for an entire week prior to our Sunday morning service. That is quite an advantage.

I also have the distinct realization that unless the message is anointed by the Spirit of God, it will be nothing more than sound waves wafting through the air and traveling in one ear and out the other without inflicting any meaningful impact.

Ephesians 3:14-17

Song by Red Sovine:

If Jesus came to your house, to spend a day or two.

If he came without warning, I wonder what you’d do?

Yes, if Jesus came to your house, to spend a day or two.

If He came unexpected, just dropped in on you.

Ah, I know you’d give your nicest room, to such an honored guest.

And all the food you’d serve to Him, would be your best.

And you would keep reassuring Him, that you’re glad to have Him there.

That serving Him in your home, is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door,

With arms out stretched in welcome, to your heavenly visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes, before you’d let Him in?

Or hide some magazines, and put the Bible where they had been?

Would you turn off the radio, and hope He hadn’t heard?

And wish you hadn’t uttered, that last loud hasty word.

Would you hide your worldly music, and put some hymn books out?

Could you just let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder, if the Savior spent a day or two with you.

Would you go right on doing, the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying, the things you always say?

Would life for you continue, as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversations, keep up its normal pace?

And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing,

And read the books you read?

And let Him know the things on which you mind and spirit feed.

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you planned to go?

Or maybe would you change your plans, for just a day or so?

Would you be glad for Him meet your very closest friends?

Or hope that they’d stay away, until His visit ends.

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?

Or would you sigh with great relief, when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,

If Jesus came in person, to spend some time with you.

If Jesus came to your house, I wonder what you’d do.

1. Ephesians 3:14-17
   1. Purpose/result clause
      1. Note the progression
         1. Praying to the Father
            1. To be strengthened by the power of His Spirit
            2. In the inner man

I Corinthians 6:19-20

Romans 8:11-14

Acts 1:8

* 1. In order that
     1. Christ may dwell in your heart
  2. Doesn’t that sound out of order?
     1. Don’t we
        1. Come to Christ will all our faults and sins
        2. To confess need for a Savior
           1. Then Jesus comes into our hearts
           2. Then the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts

So we can learn of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

* 1. Note
     1. Paul is not speaking of the born-again experience
        1. Rather he is speaking of “Christ dwelling in our hearts”

1. “Dwell”
   1. Greek, it is a combination of two words
      1. Kata… which means “down”
      2. Oikeo… which means “to be at home”
   2. “in order that Christ may be at home in your heart”
      1. A resting place for Christ
      2. Genesis 18-19
   3. Robert Munger… My Heart, Christ’s Home
      1. Library… all the books
         1. Control all the thoughts
         2. Places the Word of God on the shelf
      2. Dining room
         1. Where all the appetites are fulfilled
         2. What’s on the menu?
            1. Nevertheless, not my will but Thine be done?
      3. Living room
         1. Where fellowship occurs
            1. Jesus sitting there all alone

While we all visit with everyone else

News, sports, Internet, Facebook, Snap Chat

* + 1. Workshop
       1. Only thing being made are toys
          1. Things to entertain us
          2. All our abilities are for our pleasures
    2. Something still stinks
       1. Something is rotten in the closet
          1. Lord you can look anywhere but there

Lust of the flesh

Lust of the eyes

Pride of life

1. Victor Frankel
   1. Victor Frankel, the originator of Logo Therapy, and a writer with some interesting insights who endured some terrible trials in concentration camps has written a book called THE DOCTOR AND THE SOUL. He’s not a Christian but he has some interesting things to say and this is from that book. Quote – “In any city Sunday is the saddest day of the week. It is on Sunday that the temple of the working week is suspended and the poverty of meaning of everyday life is exposed. The emphasis on a fast tempo in the personal life is reminiscent of the clinical picture of ‘unproductive mania’. The yield of all the to-do is zero. We get the impression that these people who know no goal in life are running the course of life at the highest possible speed so that they will not notice the aimlessness of it. They are at the same time trying to run away from themselves but in vain. On Sunday when the frantic pace pauses for 24 hours, all the aimlessness, meaninglessness and the emptiness of their existence rises up before them once more.” – end quote
2. Song… Sunday Morning Coming Down

Well, I woke up Sunday morning

With no way to hold my head that didn’t hurt

And the beer I had for breakfast wasn’t bad

So I had one more for dessert

Then I fumbled in my closet through my clothes

And found my cleanest dirty shirt

Then I washed my face and combed my hair

And stumbled down the stairs to meet the day

I’d smoked my mind the night before

With cigarettes and songs, I’d been picking

But I lit my first and watched a small kid

Playing with a can that he was kicking

Then I walked across the street

And caught the Sunday smell of someone’s frying chicken

And Lord, it took me back to something that I’d lost

Somewhere, somehow along the way

On a Sunday morning sidewalk

I’m wishing, Lord, that I was stoned

Cause there’s something in a Sunday

That makes a body feel alone

And there’s nothing short a’ dying

That’s half as lonesome as the sound

Of the sleeping city sidewalk

And Sunday morning coming down

In the park, I saw a daddy

With a laughing little girl that he was swinging

And I stopped beside a Sunday school

And listened to the songs they were singing

Then I headed down the street

And somewhere far away a lonely bell was ringing

And it echoed through the canyons

Like the disappearing dreams of yesterday

On a Sunday morning sidewalk

I’m wishing, Lord, that I was stoned

Cause there’s something in a Sunday

That makes a body feel alone

And there’s nothing short a’ dying

That’s half as lonesome as the sound

Of the sleeping city sidewalk

And Sunday morning coming down

1. The result
   1. Ephesians 3:17
      1. “in order that you may be rooted and grounded in love”
      2. When Christ is in control of your
         1. Thinking
         2. Emotions
         3. Fellowship
         4. Actions
         5. Abilities
   2. Love is the result

There are so many people that I know and have known over the years, that want to be loved but they will never experience love until Christ dwells in their hearts.

Galatians 5:22-25