



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

July 9, 2023

"Your Bible and Your Newspaper"

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is ..." (Romans 12:2, NIV)

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2:15-17, NIV)

My Bible and My Newspaper?

Beginning this week, we will explore a famous quote by one of the great theologians of the 20th century, Karl Barth, who said: "Take your Bible and take your newspaper and ... read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible." What did he mean by that?

"Be in the World but Not of the World"

He meant that we should not ignore the world around us, but rather engage with it from a Biblical perspective. He wanted us to be aware of what is happening in our society, our culture, our politics, our environment, and our global community. He wanted us to be informed and involved citizens who care about God's creation and God's will for humanity...but through the lens of the Word of God not through the "patterns of this world."

He meant that we should not let the world around us shape our understanding of God and his Word, but rather let God and his Word shape our understanding of the world around us. He wanted us to be discerning and critical readers who test everything by the standard of Scripture. He wanted us to be faithful and obedient followers who live out our faith in every aspect of our lives. And that includes how we read and react to how our world appears in the news. (Now go back and reread the Scripture verses above – see where this is leading?)

An Example of How we Can do This

When we read news about the COVID-19 pandemic and its fallout, we may get angry, sad, or even fearful. But within Scripture we can find how to enrich and even correct our view of what's being reported in the current news. We can remember that...

- God is the creator and sustainer of life (Acts 17:28)
- God cares for the sick and the suffering (Ps 103)
- God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Lev 19:18)
- God promises to be with us always, even in times of trouble (Isa 43:2; Matt 28:20).

This week's sermon will be an introduction to these ideas. Simply put, we will start to talk about "how do I find relevance of Scripture in today's world – how does this apply to me?"

Prayer box: let us pray for healing and comfort for Robin, Joyce, Lynn, and Bill; for Bill and Marcia's new home; for those suffering from extreme weather and unhealthy air; for those suffering from violence; for those couples who are struggling in their relationships; and let us give thanks continually for all the support the Raquette Lake Community gives the Chapel! Lord, hear our prayer!