

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Good morning and welcome to Abundant Life! I am glad that you are here; I consider it an honor to worship the Lord together today. If this is your first time to worship with us please take a minute to complete one of our Welcome Cards located in the guest packet. If you did not receive a guest packet you can get one at the Information Center in the lobby. Once you complete the card either drop it in the basket during the offering or leave it at the Information Center. Again, I am glad that you are here today!

As we have started the New Year, with most of us already looking forward to spring and warmer temperatures, we are taking a fresh look at some of the things that should be priority in our lives. Our sermon series, *1st Things 1st*, is a reminder of some of the things that God desires to have 1st place in our lives. Jesus stated it so eloquently in the Gospel of Matthew when He is addressing man's pursuit of the things he thinks he needs to have in His life, "seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you."

It is a challenge to not focus on the things that we think we need or that we believe will bring fulfillment to our lives and instead place our focus on the "things of God," the things that really make a difference in our lives. Jesus also taught that our heart would be where our treasure is. I think that message not only speaks to material possessions and financial wealth, but also to where our focus and priority for living is placed.

It seems that many times the harder we work for the things of this world, the farther behind we get. But when we pursue the things of God we find fulfillment, satisfaction and peace of mind. There is nothing wrong with experiencing pleasure and fulfillment from our pursuits in this life, after all, Jesus did come to give us life – abundantly. But when the pursuit of our energy and passion becomes things that will not last we have allowed our priorities to get out of line and before long we find ourselves serving the things rather than serving God. A great question that I have found as I evaluate priorities in my life is "what difference will this make in light of eternity?" In other words, does this have eternal value or is the value just temporal?

Over these five Sundays in January 2010 allow God to remind you of the things that should find top priority in your life and mine – our relationship with God, our family, friends and loved ones, allow God to help you sort through the list.

Let's make sure that we give room for the important people and things in our lives. God will honor it and we will be truly blessed!

Blessings to you as we put 1st Things 1st!

Pastor Bob

Winter Weather and Church Closing – In the event of winter weather, snow, sleet or ice a decision will be made to cancel church services by 7:30AM and the closing will be announced in the following ways:

- Local TV stations – WBTV, WSOC
- Church website: www.livingabundantly.org
- Email notification
- A phone calling plan will be placed into effect to call every home in the church

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

A.L.O.F.T. - The monthly meeting of the women's ministry at Abundant Life will be having their first meeting of 2010 on Tuesday night at 6:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. Jenifer Staring will be sharing the devotion.

Wednesday Night Connection –New service time 6:30PM – Join us as Pastor Bob leads a study entitled **Rebuilding the Real You** – a study from the Book of Nehemiah. Books are available for purchase for \$12 each, please sign up at the Information Center.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010, 10:30AM

We will be sharing plans for 2010 and ratifying the appointment of three church council members for two year terms. The meeting will be a part of the Sunday morning service and everyone is invited and welcomed to attend but only church members will be eligible to vote for church council members.

The LEADing Edge – Sunday, January 17 from 6:00-7:30PM

Whether you currently serve in a leadership role within the church, in your workplace or if you want to learn more about being an effective leader you are invited to be a part of our monthly gathering for leadership training! Childcare is provided.

PRAYER REQUESTS / NEEDS

- **Paul Bass** –recuperating from pneumonia
- **Bill Smith Family** – for God's grace & peace after the passing of Lennis Smith
- **Danielle Harris** – recuperating from surgery, healing of cancer
- **Madison** – 9 year old cousin of Shannon Covington, healing of cancer
- **Jenny** – Shannon Covington's aunt – healing of cancer
- Remember those in our church and community who have lost jobs and those who are struggling financially

Upcoming Events

- Jan 12 – ALOFT – Ladies Ministry Meeting, 6:30PM
- Jan 17 – Annual Congregational Meeting – 10:30AM
- Jan 17 – Church Council Meeting 4PM
- Jan 17 – The Leading Edge 6-7:30PM
- Jan 23 – Youth Snow Tubing Outing
- Jan 30 – Men's Breakfast 8:00AM – Church Fellowship Hall
- Jan 31 – Children & Youth Ministry Volunteer Meeting (following Sunday morning service)
- Feb 7 – Super Bowl Fellowship 6PM
- Feb 13 – Valentine's Banquet