

What's Wrong With Our Culture? (Part 1)

Catching up on our story:

Acts 13

Keys to abundant living in today's culture:

Acts 13:13-52, Deuteronomy 21:22-23, Galatians 3:10-14, James 4:13-17

- Always remember **GOD'S PLAN** is bigger than our **POLITICS** and **PROBLEMS**.
- Create **OPPORTUNITIES**, not **CONFLICT**.
- Never lose our **ETERNAL** vision.
 - Focusing on others can leave us **DEPRESSED**.
 - Focusing on ourselves can leave us **DISAPPOINTED**.
 - Focusing on God will leave us **DELIGHTED**.

The three priorities we can't afford to lose:

Acts 1-13, Psalms 73:25-28

- Our **PROXIMITY** to God
- Our **PROVISIONS** from God
- Our **PURPOSE** in God

Food for Thought

For the week of August 23, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

In his message this weekend, Chris gave us keys to abundant living in today's culture. What are some of the challenges to living this way in our current society?

Which of those challenges is the biggest one you face personally?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Chris talked this weekend about the temporary and incomplete nature of any cultural answers to our problems. We know from Scripture that Jesus is the truth and anything else will decay. How do the following verses help us hold onto truth in the midst of an ever-changing and decaying culture?

John 14:6 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 8:31-32 *New International Version (NIV)*

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

1 John 5:20 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁰ We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

John 18:37 *New International Version (NIV)*

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Matthew 24:35 *New International Version (NIV)*

³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

2 Timothy 4:1-6 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2. Two of the keys Chris shared regarding abundant living in today's culture are to always remember that God's plan is bigger, and never lose our eternal vision. Where do you see those principles reinforced in Paul's perspective on challenges in his own culture in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

How might you be able to fix your eyes on what is unseen and eternal instead of what is seen and temporary right now?

Use the chart below to help identify temporary matters to shift your focus away from and eternal matters to shift your focus toward. In the left column, write down some seen/temporary things in your life and in our world today (jobs, finances, politics, health, school, etc.). In the right column, write down some unseen/eternal things of God that will outlast your life on earth. Be specific.

Seen/Temporary	Unseen/Eternal
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What is one unseen/eternal matter you listed above that you can make an extra effort to remember as you go throughout your week?

We had a great collection of classes this summer that covered a variety of topics. To watch recordings of these classes, please visit our website: northcoastchurch.com/classes