

Thoughts from Pastor – A Sermon Companion

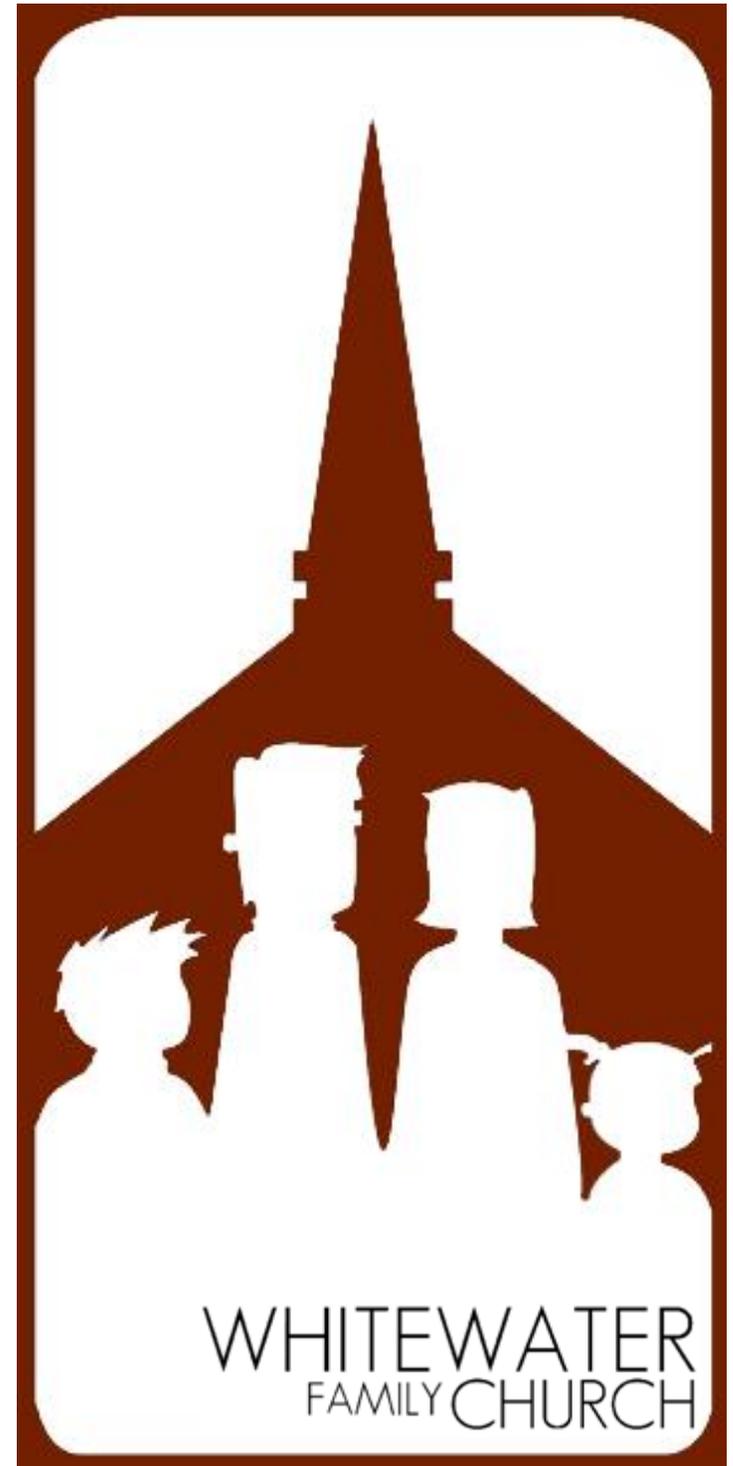
There are seasons to life. Times that come and go. Each and every one of us have them. Some of them are more pronounced than others. Some are all too short and some last far too long. The trick is changing your life to suit the seasons.

Why should you change your life to suit the seasons? Well honestly, you don't have much of a choice. Just like the seasons of weather, the seasons of life are coming no matter how much we wish they wouldn't. You can no more stop the onset of old age as you can the coming of the winter's snow. Furthermore it is a foolhardy endeavor to pretend that the changes are not coming.

So what is one truly to do? You live according to the season it is not the season you want it to be. Now, myself, I'm not an old man yet ... regardless of what Pastor Tony says. But I'm not young anymore either. So I live accordingly. I don't let it bother me. And complaining about it won't change anything. So I simply continue along into the Fall season of my life.

But what of other seasons? Young Adulthood, Marriage, Parenting, Careers, Retirement? What of them? They work no different than any that came before. If you're a young parent you're finding out just how precious time is. If you're a recent empty nester ... you may be finding that adjusting to life without your children has given you back too much free time. If you're retired, you may be realizing that you have daily time, but in the grand scheme of things, far less than you would like.

I think these things are one of the reasons that Christ said anyone who puts their hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for service in the kingdom of God. You can't live in a season long gone. Therefore do what you are called to do in the time that God has given you. You will only and always have "now". You can plan for the future and learn from the past, but you can only live Today.



Why a series on lies?

It's interesting watching people for as long as I have. We as followers of Christ have some very funny ways of looking at things. We have some very odd habits and patterns of thought that guide our behavior. Now I wouldn't qualify all of those things as "lies" but I would qualify a lot of them at misguided attempts at living the Christian life.

What do you mean Pastor? Well, take our outlook on the whole gay marriage issues. Now as surely as I live and breathe the Bible says homosexuality is a sin. It is outside of God's plans for mankind. So because of that we have our undies in a knot over what our culture is doing in regards to that behavior.

And yet almost every believer in the universe has friends or family that is doing something clearly outside of God's plan for their lives. But we don't get nearly as bent out of shape about our kids who are sleeping together before marriage, or our brother who is a sloppy drunk, or our best friend who is overweight because they're a glutton. Oh no we've stopped complaining about those things and instead simply make a disapproving face every time one of those things is brought up around us. Disapproving sure, but not openly opposing like we are doing to the flavor of the decade sin that is all over the media.

Why? Well, simply put it is because we have believed a lie or two about the nature of sin and how we as God's people are to address the issue.

We're not to combat sinfulness in our fellow man. We're to promote the Gospel. We're to tell people of the freedom from death and sin through repentance that leads to the Grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. After they've committed themselves to discipleship in Christ then the Holy Spirit and the Church are to train believers in righteousness in order for them to be more Christ like.

There is a fundamental difference in those approaches. One is accusatory and condemning and the other is freeing and accepting. One shuts the door unless someone is good enough and the other opens it wide for all to taste and see that the Lord is good. As God's people we need to stop believing the lie and start promoting the truth!

WHITEWATER FAMILY CHURCH

At Whitewater Family Church we strive to pursue God with honesty and excellence by building stronger families, engaging in mentor based discipleship, and encouraging personal calling and ministry

Things we do Every Week

Sunday School 9:30am

Youth Group - 7:00 Wednesdays

Tuesday Workdays - At the Church 7:00pm

Men's Conference!

September 25-26 there are info cards in the back!

Halloween Outreach

The pieces are beginning to move! So lets be ready to get some work done!

- Start thinking about Super Hero Costumes!
- Start thinking about Candy!
- Start praying that we have an effective outreach!
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Church Work Day - Saturday, September 19th

We will be preparing for the Halloween outreach, cleaning out the old sanctuary. Meet at the church at 9am.

Pasta Dinner! 5:00 - 6:30 Wednesday the 30th

Starting in September we're opening the doors to the community for a free Spaghetti dinner on the last Wednesday of every month. So come out and do two things. Serve one another and eat some pasta!

Wednesday 6:30pm & Thursday 7:00pm

Home-Groups are designed to grow your faith, connect to your church family, and share the love of Christ with your community.

Wednesday // 1281 Blackriver Ct, Whitewater WI, 53190

Thursday // 137 N. Cherry Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

1540 W Walworth Ave. Whitewater, WI 53190

You can also find us on Facebook or at www.whitewaterag.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Mike: 920-327-3620
Pastor Chris: 920-660-8386

Pastor Tony: 920-841-1581
Pastor Eric 847-644-1076