



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Bethel Build Anniversary: Jesus at the Center”

Ps. James Lowe – Nov. 9, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What's the greatest sacrifice you have ever made? Was it worth it?
- What's your greatest motivation in life? What compels you to get up every morning and do the things that you do?
- What criteria do you usually use when you have to make important decisions?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org/media/>

Colossians 1:15–24 (ESV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church...

The Bible clearly states that everything in the world belongs to God. Everything we have and everything we do should glorify Jesus. Everything is his; everything is about Christ. He is completing his work, leading all creation to the ultimate goal of glorifying himself through his church. We, Bethel, as part of the body of Christ, want to purposefully do everything for the glory of his name. Whether we preach the Gospel, lead worship services, or build a building to embrace the harvest, we do it all so that many lives may be transformed to glorify the name of Jesus.

1. **The Cross.** Jesus died to reconcile all people to himself so that he may be preeminent in all things. The cross is the central act of God in history that brings all people's attention to how great, loving, wise, and good God is.
2. **The Church.** Jesus has chosen to build and use his church, so that through his church the Gospel may be preached and his name may be glorified. We don't do church for the sake of doing church, but for the sake of the name of Jesus, that he might be made known to all people. The church is *the* hope for this world to know God and to live with ultimate purpose.

3. **The Choice.** We have a choice to invest our lives in what God is doing. He is building his church, and his church is made of living stones. The reason we build a physical building is to have a space to build up the lives of his living stones.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- Do you believe that Bethel Build will glorify the name of Jesus? If so, how is God leading you to invest in it?
- What changes do you need to make in your life style to better glorify the name of Jesus?
- What can you consistently do to put Jesus at the center of all you do?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray for Bethel Build; that God will give wisdom to the leaders, provide the finances, and protect the workers as we start the building process.
- Pray for personal direction: How does God want you to invest in Bethel Build?
- Pray that the name of Jesus will be glorified in all you do.