

We Live the Greatest Virtues
Second Baptist Corpus Christi August 2, 2020
1 Corinthians 13:13

ENT -American Pickers visited Hollywood gun-slinger cowboy-Gordie Peer
-he taught Roy Rogers how to handle his gun, holster it w/out looking
-worked with Clayton Moore, Lone Ranger-also was a Hollywood stuntman
-sold memorabilia to Mike Wolff like handkerchief from Tom Mix, photos
from championship rodeos in past-old leather jacket-haggle on price
-every sale Mike shakes hands-contract-on first sale, Gordie held onto
Mike's hand for moment & asked if his name went with the memorabilia
-Mike knew what he was asking-will I be remembered with these things
-will my name continue on-can I link myself to these items of more
famous people-will my life really matter? Mike said that yes it would
-but everyone knew that Gordie Peer would not go with it-his name
would not last with that memorabilia-Gordie, you will be forgotten

-in 150 years, who will remember you, what you did, what you stood for
-& even if you were remembered, what difference would it make for you
-hanging onto Tom Mix's handkerchief is not significant-so can do
something? YES, want that-something that has positive mark in history
of universe-"I am my own brand"-doesn't work-my series addresses this
-this morning were looking at Christian virtue-what does it look like

1. We value things that Last

-nostalgia arouse our sentiments about yesteryear
-old things we think hold value-ancestry connects us to the past

-remember, Pickers shake hands on sale price-agreement, contract,
covenant - your handshake, your word, your signature, your promise
-covenant with God addresses eternity-how are we do get along with God
forever? Covenant in Jesus Christ-new covenant predicted in OT
fulfilled completely in Jesus-put your faith in him-orient life in him
-believe his death on cross solves sin, resurrection changes life
-this is eternal-once in God's hand you are not leaving
-believing once saved always saved has not always caused comfort
-what if I didn't pray right; what if I didn't believe right; what if
I didn't do something right to get saved-you're correct, nothing right
-cause you didn't save yourself-Jesus saved you-give your life-period
-how do I know I'm saved-signs/posters/billboards you're following X
-God's Spirit gives progress reports-conviction-you see improvement

2. We live Virtue that lasts

-now, you live in covenant with God-how do you live in covenant w/God?
-you live Christ-like-you exhibit his virtues-the Christian virtue
-Christian virtue doesn't stop with end of your life or end of world
-it will continue into next life, eternity in new heaven & new earth
-if it is virtue, is moral excellence, then of course it's eternal

-“completeness” (v. 10 NIV)-word means complete, perfect or mature
-when full life in Christ comes, mature, complete, or perfect life
-THEN, the partial done away-“what is in part” (NIV) -the temporary!

- some things will last and others will not
- what won't last? Tongues, prophecy, special knowledge
- giving away possessions and giving away one's own life will not linger into the end time but is for the here and now (see v. 3)

- faith, hope and love abide into eternity not just until we arrive at the end-otherwise, these three are no more superior to tongue or to prophecy-love abides, so do faith and hope

- virtue doesn't come naturally
- let's look at vv. 4-6 from a natural perspective: I'm can be impatient; I'm not always kind; I can envy; I can boast; I can be proud and dishonor others; I can be self-seeking; I can be easily angered; I can definitely remember those who wrong me; yest, I can delight in evil; and seek to avoid the truth.
- virtue is team sport-in ancient world & ours, some virtues separate individuals but these virtues are to be lived by all Christians

3. We walk by Faith

- too often we think that "walk by faith" means that we get in touch with the Holy Spirit who will direct our lives on what we need to do or where we need to go or simply giving us the next step in life
- we think we can't live by sight for that would disobey 2 Cor. 5:7
- Paul not saying to ignore your senses-walking by faith is not so much mystical, as walking in our faith in Jesus-there is a sense of being guided by Spirit that comes across mystical but that's not the entirety of this phrase or even what it mostly means

- we live by faith or by our belief in Jesus Christ, Lord, Son of God, Savior, one who gives life itself in abundance, way we crave life
- we live by faith or by obedience to his commands-if we love Jesus, then we will keep his commandments, we will obey what he taught
- we live by faith or by being faithful in service to him

- we walk by faith; we don't walk in fear; we don't walk in foolishness
- if faith is to be lived eternally, then what will our faith look like
- how will we be living in eternity? It will be by trusting God's promise of new heaven/earth all it is supposed to be & that forever
- and that's how we are to live now; not just then, but right now!

4. We hold onto Hope

- anticipation of good things-hope in new heaven/earth is endless
- for we will never tire of good things in heaven-they'll keep rolling
- express confidence in Jesus that he's going to continue to be the same and continue to act the same and we'll get to know him better

- people living w/out hope, because they don't know what will happen
- we live hope right now, because we do know what's going to happen
- Jesus is going to come again-we might die before then, and we know what will happen at that time-we will be with Jesus-that gives hope!

5. We Love

- love covers a broad amount of meaning both in Greek and in English
- like, infatuation, romantic love, sacrificial love, or preference
- Jesus declared to love is basic to law, to obedience-love God&others
- Paul carved out a niche for this word as a distinctive virtue of Christianity

-love isn't a "rule"-it's the life that we are to live

- Paul teaches love is permanent as opposed to temporary spiritual gifts-when we live love, we are living God's eternal kingdom
- here is why so important to show love NOW-easier than ever in some ways to stand out from hostile crowd-your job, your occupation is not to correct every wrong teaching that is in our culture today
- your job is to take a stand in love for Jesus and for others
- begins by listening to others whether some crazy political statement or simply belief that good people go to heaven which is false
- use "I" language-"I believe" and your statement needs to point to Jesus as Lord and savior-and your words need to show divine love

"Love is not a 'duty,' even our highest duty. It's our destiny." (N. T. Wright)

EXIT-Who are you?

- we've often noted you can't take your possessions w/you at death
- there are Uhaul trailers attached to hearses going to cemetery
- there are some things that are permanent and you take with you
- what can you take with you? What is permanent? What lasts forever
- all of your faith, hope, and love will last-especially the love

Thesis-The greatest virtues continue forever in lives of Christians.