

Valuable Truths That God Taught Us

by Zac Poonen

This sermon emphasizes the importance of passing on the truths of God's Word from generation to generation, focusing on living a life of humility and obedience to God. It highlights the need for individuals to grow in spiritual maturity, learn from Jesus' example of humility, and seek to please God above all else. The message encourages believers to hold fast to the standard of sound words, avoid useless arguments, and be vessels for God's use, always seeking to live a life that glorifies Him.

Scripture: Psalms 78:3, 2 Timothy 2:2, Matthew 11:29, John 6:38, Romans 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:9, John 5:19, John 15:5, Philippians 4:13, 1 Timothy 3:15, 2 Timothy 2:1

Topics: "Generational Faithfulness", "Humility and Obedience"

Description

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Transcript

There is an old English song which says that even if you roam around the world and find many palaces there is no place like home. And if you have found a home in the church like I have found for 43 years, then we will say with me Sare Jahan Se Acha Hai CFC Hamara which means there's in the whole world there's no place like CFC. The great tragedy is even in our own homes you know how children grow up and they don't value their home enough until they go away and see how it is elsewhere.

I don't know if all of you really value this church if you're a part of it. I can honestly say this is my family. I have many earthly relatives but none of them are close to me like this church family and it's been like that for all these 43 years from the time when we started when we were only two families right at the beginning.

So the thing is to continue that spirit in the coming generations because time moves on and when we started Ian and I were the ones who prayed together and before the months before CFC started and I don't say that Ian and I are getting old. I just say we are not getting younger so we need to pray that the new generation will rise up everywhere in all the churches that the Lord has planted so that his name will be glorified. I want to first read from Psalm 78.

The Psalmist is not a Psalm of David. It's a man called Esaf who wrote it. He says here verse 3 what we have heard from our fathers and what our fathers have told us we will not conceal them from their children but will tell the generation to come the praises of the Lord.

Psalm 78 verse 5 and we his strength his wondrous works that he has done the reason is that they verse 5 last part should teach them to their children and here's the Psalmist concerned about grandchildren that the generation to come might know even those children which are not yet born that they may arise and tell them to their children to the fourth generation and what should they teach them they should that they put their confidence in God and not forget the works of his works of God but keep his commandments. So that is our burden also as we move on from generation to generation. We read in the Bible that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and that was one generation and we have passed that 40-year mark in cfc so we really need another generation among all those of you sitting here to rise up and take the responsibility seriously and it's like a relay race when Jesus went up to heaven he passed that baton to the next person running the race those are the apostles they took the baton and handed it to the next generation and like that through the years there's always been a remnant not the big churches i mean if you read the history of christianity the big books on the history of christianity tell you about the big big churches the big denominations but the people of God were not usually there the people of God was in a small remnant i mean you see that for example in the time of king Saul the real people of God were a small remnant that hung around with David in a cave and even in the time of Jesus the big church or the big recognized religious group were the Israelite Pharisees and the Sadducees and all but the real remnant was Jesus and his few disciples 12 of them who wandered around and were not recognized so all these two thousand years there's always been a small remnant which has existed and there are one or two books on that subject that take up the history of this remnant that has been right through generation after generation after generation the reason is you know when God starts something for example you take the apostle Paul he did a great work in Ephesus and started a church there he worked three years there and he preached day and night for three years he told him i never took any money from you i didn't even want any clothes or gifts or anything i served you day and night and he says now i'm going away and what this holy spirit has told me is that all once you go the wolves will come in and the wolves will come and destroy this flock and the elders will be the first ones who are attacked and those elders will make little groups and get people to join them you read that in Acts chapter 20 that's what Paul told the elders when he was leaving but what i want you to notice there in Acts 20 is Acts 20 verse 29 i know that after my departure savage wolves will come in and they won't spare the flock and from you elders i don't know how many of them were there we read in verse 17 he called the elders maybe four or five elders and Acts 20 verse 30 some of you will begin to say perverse things that means to draw away people after yourself can you imagine an elder who sat under the ministry of the apostle paul for three years could not get his spirit but he never sought his own and never took anything for himself labor day and night foregoing his own health in order to bless the people and these elders never got gripped by that spirit they were seeking their own and so once paul went it says in verse 30 they would draw away disciples after them now this was not a prophecy it was a warning there's a difference between a warning and a prophecy prophecy means it will be fulfilled warning means like jonah went and told nineveh the city of nineveh in 40 days the city is going to be destroyed and they they repented from the king downwards they repented and that prophecy was not fulfilled because they took the warning seriously so here is a warning if these elders had taken it seriously what that great apostle of god had spoken the church in ephesus would not have declined to what you read in revelation chapter 2 the lord tells the church in ephesus you left your first love what paul said as a warning they didn't take seriously it became like that and in our church also god has given many warnings through the years we warn strongly against sin we teach people to submit to their elders for their

own in church matters anyway for for their own protection we teach parents to bring up their children in the fear of god those who take these things seriously it goes well with them those who take it lightly and think that oh well that's not going to happen to us that's how all the warnings that god gave through the prophets in the bible many people said no no it won't happen to us and it happened so we have to be very careful we are not any different from any of them there is a need for us to take what we hear seriously so in that connection i want to turn to 2nd timothy 2nd timothy is the last letter that paul wrote we read here in 2nd timothy chapter 1 paul's writing to and saying to timothy in verse 2nd timothy 1 13 he says please hold on tightly to the standard of sound hygienic healthy words which you have heard from me in the faith and love which is in christ paul was happy that there was at least one person who was gripped by the truth and so he says hold on to that what you have heard i would say to all of you those who are serious those who have the spirit of timothy to take heed to what you've been hearing here through the years please hold on to the standard retain the standard everywhere in christendom the standard is going down in western countries it has become so bad that divorce which is unheard of in the church become very common and not only divorce if people divorce and get remarried in the same church and they even become pastors in that church it was not the standard in the beginning jesus said if you divorce your wife it's adultery that's what we have preached that's why in all these 43 years we have never had a divorce in all of our churches for those who are committed members of this church i'm not saying that those who were divorced in their unconverted days if they repent we will not welcome them if god welcomes them we will welcome them too but in the church we will never see a divorce and we will never marry a divorced person but in the west it's become common among the leaders and even very well-known people they marry divorced people and they well-known preachers i mean people accept it the standard has gone down so much so paul's word is very important retain the standard of hygienic healthy words which you heard from me in faith and love i think timothy held on to that till the end of his life but in succeeding generations decline went in so what happens is when a movement or a church like ephesus declines and the elders don't take what is said seriously you know in the book of revelation it speaks about overcomers and even the whole church declines there will be some turn with me to revelation in chapter three to this church he says to the leader of this church the messenger word angel means messenger that means the senior elder in that church the last part of verse one you have a name that you're alive but you are dead it's possible to be in a church which over the years has built up a name for holiness for a standard of god's word and people can join a church like a lot of people join cfc oh it's got a good name let's be there but you yourself could be dead you have a name that you're alive but you're dead and that's what happened to a lot of people in that church so god was going to reject that church but see what's for but you have a few people i told you about the remnant and that's what god's looking for in this church in every church a remnant a few people who have not soiled their garments in other words who kept their conscience clear we have taught in this church the importance of keeping a good conscience before god and before men that's the meaning of they did not spoil their garments and they will walk with me in white because they are worthy it's an amazing statement in a book like revelation where it says lord thou alone art worthy oh lamb of god thou alone art worthy the lamb of god turns around to some people sitting in the church in sardis and says you are worthy can you imagine that jesus turning around to some people in one of his churches and saying you guys who kept your conscience clear and you did not become like all the other believers in your church they lived on the good name the church had but you didn't live on that good name you just kept your conscience clear you will walk with me in white because you're worthy i want to hear that word when jesus comes again i hope you want to hear it too it's very simple very easy to keep your conscience clear to keep your conscience clear does not mean i have overcome every sin in my life no it means that if i slip up i set it right immediately that's the meaning of keeping your conscience clear you will never come to victory over sin if

you don't start with keeping your conscience clear let me tell you that they have not soiled their garments that means when some dirt came on the garment they washed it off immediately so the garments were clean we have a they will walk with me in white we have a great example of that in acts chapter 23 acts of the apostles in chapter 23 we read the apostle paul saying to the when he was standing in a court before the high priest he didn't know it was the high priest some man sitting up there and he says to the whole council that was judging him acts 23 one brethren i have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience he did not soil his garments not only before god but also before men up to this day that means during the first 30 years when he was a jew before he became a christian he lived by the standard of the 10 commandments and kept his conscience clear according to the standard of the 10 commandments and after he became a christian and the standard was higher which was that you don't get angry and you don't lust after women and you always speak the truth and love your enemies etc again he kept his conscience clear by the new standard not always perfectly but he kept it clear that means kept it clean and as soon as he said that the high priest who was so angry because he never kept his own conscience clear and he didn't believe anybody could like a lot of people today they don't believe there's any such thing as victory over sin just because they don't have it themselves they think nobody can have it so he's commanded the people there to strike paul on the mouth and now see what happens in verse three paul immediately loses his good conscience he speaks to the high priest in a way that jesus would never speak and when you speak in a way that jesus would not speak it's a sin whoever it is paul or anybody god will strike you you whitewashed wall verse three you sit there according to the law and in violation of the law order me to be according to the law according to the legal standards paul was right in what he said the high priest had no right to tell somebody to slap him on the mouth when he's standing there that's against the law so what paul said was right but he had no right to speak like that sometimes you know what you say is right but the way you speak to an older person that may not be right it's what you got to learn there's a lot of disrespect in the world today you can argue and say but what i said was right yeah what you said was right but that is not the way to speak to an older person to someone older than you so when the people told him that was high priest oh he said i'm sorry he set his conscience right immediately because i see that god's word says you shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people and i did it so i learned something from there how paul kept his conscience clear all the time as soon as he was aware he apologized acknowledged his error that's where all of us have hope dear brothers and sisters and there's only one thing required to acknowledge your error and that is humility and that is the one thing that is lacking in many many christians even in cfc the humility to immediately say i'm sorry that was my mistake please forgive me the 10 most difficult words for human beings to speak i'm sorry that was my mistake please forgive me most difficult words for a husband to speak to his wife when he hurt her in some way i'm sorry darling that was my mistake please forgive me or for a wife to say to her husband why is it so difficult pride and that is the reason why people don't grow when we think of 43 years cfc has gone by what is it we have emphasized in these 43 years god gives his grace only to the humble we used to have that verse somewhere here that's over there yeah according to god used to have it in the other building too and it's over there god gives his grace only to the humble that's what you've emphasized all these years how many people have taken it seriously you know you can see a verse on the wall and sometimes get familiar with it and it doesn't even affect you i never in my life want to be unaffected by that verse god gives his grace only to the humble i want grace i cannot live in this world without grace i cannot preach without grace i cannot serve without grace i cannot be a father a good father without grace i cannot be a good husband without grace i cannot be a good brother to all of you without grace i cannot be a good elder without grace in fact i can do nothing without grace and god says he'll give it to me abundantly only one condition humble yourself that's what we have stressed from the beginning 43 years we have preached god gives his grace

to the humble how many of you have understood it in your head all of us how many live in the reality of that every day i don't know because if you were living in the reality of that every day there would be such fantastic spiritual growth in you i must say it's not there in many many people as i expect and in this area what are we stressed we have stressed that this humility is not something we learn from the dictionary you can look up the dictionary what is the meaning of humility and try to follow that you'll go astray turn with me to matthew 11 and verse 29 what have we taught in cfc for 43 years jesus said learn from me the middle of that verse for i am humble in heart what is the difference between the humility of jesus and the humility that you see in some people you say he's a very humble man even some non-christians they say he's a very humble man but most christians their humility comes from sin i have sinned so much so i think of that and i humble myself that's good that's called the humility of the sinner and sinners must be humble but when jesus said learn humility from me he was not humble because he was a sinner no he had not committed a single sin how can a person who's never committed sin and has got no sin in him always overcome how can he be humble that is a mystery to be humble when you have so much sin in you that's fairly easy in fact you should be humble if you have failed so many times but jesus said learn humility from me it is another level of humility which is more than the humility of the sinner the humility of jesus christ and that's what we have stressed the humility of jesus was seen i'll tell you in one single statement turn with me to john chapter 6 and i believe that is the mark of the humility of a saint not the humility of the sinner the humility of a saint who's living in victory over sin john chapter 6 the humility of jesus is seen i'll read two or three verses to you and you'll understand it john 6 38 i came from heaven never to do my own will that is true humility lord heavenly father i never want to do what pleases me i never want to do my will but i only want to do your will that is true humility uh romans chapter 15 romans 15 and verse three one simple statement you see his humility here if you want to learn the humility of jesus jesus said learn from me christ did not please himself at any time romans 15 3 do you want to live this life it's an invitation no compulsion i'm inviting you to live a life where you never do your own will where you never please yourself in anything but you only want to please the father you say is such a life possible the apostle paul was a human being when you think of jesus you say oh well he was perfect let's look at paul 2nd corinthians and chapter 5 he says 2nd corinthians 5 verse 9 this is our ambition paul says whether we are at home in heaven you read the previous verses you know he's talking about heaven is our home in the first eight absent from the body at home with the lord so whether at home with the lord in heaven or absent from the lord here on earth let me paraphrase it whether i'm in heaven or i'm on earth my one ambition is to please god to please the lord you know young people have ambitions they want to get a good job and be an engineer or a doctor or some big job and earn a lot of money and build a house and live comfortably and get a good car good ambitions good for young people to have ambitions so that they don't become beggars but get a good job and support themselves i encourage all young people to work hard for that but over and above all that here's the ambition that any christian should have our ambition is to be always pleasing to the lord that is a really humble person i don't want to please myself very often somebody gets angry with you you want to say what pleases you give it up say i will not please myself i will not do my own will that is humility i tell you something you walk that way you will experience such grace in your life that you'll be amazed many of us are not experiencing it you're missing something turn with me to john chapter 5 jesus said in verse 19 here's another example of the humility of jesus verse 19 truly i say to you the son can do nothing of himself unless it is something he sees the father doing i was recently in our church in loveland where one message santosh was speaking my son and he was quoting something that he heard in an audio bible bible which is spoken story of the bible spoken an audio for little children and he said something that really moved my heart it brought tears to my eyes he said in that bible that man says like this that when jesus was hanging on the cross you know the well-known words we have read my god my

god why have you forsaken me i mean the way he spoke it was papa where are you you get that you get it
jesus hanging on the cross and saying papa where are you it's like the cry of a little two-year-old who's
held his dad's hand and walked and then suddenly it's dark and the father has left his hand picture this in
your mind a little two-year-old walking holding his dad's hand all along and suddenly it's dark and the
father has taken away his hand and he's lost and he says papa where are you that's how jesus lived all his
33 and a half years he's not like these proud people who say ah i can walk myself i can cross the road
myself big 10 year old says that the two-year-old says papa hold my hand do you say that is that your
relationship with your heavenly father i don't want to speak something which i feel like speaking you know
paul said that's what jesus is saying here the son can do nothing by himself except what he sees the
father do paul said in one corinthians in chapter 13 verse 11 when i was a child i spoke like a child reason
like a child when i became a man i did away with childish things you know then on earth it is like that i want
you to understand the spiritual meaning to this verse speaking like a child shall i explain it to you i can do
everything i don't need to pray as long as i earn my money and i'm in good health come sunday to the
church show my face here and don't do anything that will spoil my testimony everybody accepts me i'm
okay that is speaking like a child but when we mature and become a man then we begin to speak like
jesus i don't know i need to seek god i don't know what to do father what should i say i'm not very sure
what i should say 30 years ago when i was a young believer i knew what to say today i don't it's my own
testimony as a preacher i started preaching 55 years ago i knew what to say i could study the bible and
give a good message even to 5 000 people i did it but today it's different that was when i was a child i
spoke like a child but now i put away those childish things i've come to see what maturity is like jesus the
son can do nothing unless what he sees the father doing because what we think is going to benefit
everybody may not be what they need my own cleverness i say oh yeah i think i know what will benefit
people or i can work out a good sermon for these people once i could not now now i say i don't know the
son can do nothing unless he sees what the father is doing this is what we have taught and i'm not saying
this has happened to me suddenly it's something i've grown into and i'm not some of you are young i'm not
asking you to condemn yourself maybe you are in the you're like i was when i was a child okay but now
what i say is are you growing some of you been here 20 30 years are you growing are you growing in
humility are you seeing jesus example or is your head full of very high thoughts about yourself if you don't
know how to speak in kindness to your wife you're a child even if you've been here 30 years or to your
husband if you don't know how to speak in kindness to your son and daughter you're a child spiritually you
have to grow up and growing up is to be like jesus and saying i don't know i want to lean upon the father
the best example this is something we have taught in this church for 43 years i'm just trying to remind you
of the things we have taught for 43 years john 15 and verse 5 what jesus said apart from me you can do
nothing i look at these two verses behind me here on the wall as i was sitting there without christ i can do
nothing that's here john 15 verse 5 that's what we have taught repeatedly and the other side of the coin
philippians 4 13 which is with christ i can do everything the more we grow in the christian life the more
those two verses become real to us and when those two verses become real to us there cannot be any
glorying that i did this or i can preach like this or i prayed for somebody and they got healed or i did this i
did no no no no it was all the lord and then the verse in the middle becomes true we learn to be merciful to
others when they make mistakes just as god has been merciful to us i mean i think of the years when i
spoke like a child and i thought i was i was an arrogant proud creature capable of doing things and the lord
was merciful to me i can be merciful to people today because he was merciful to me i have been such an
object of god's mercy through the years and i'll tell you honestly my testimony it is impossible for me not to
be merciful to others impossible because god has been so merciful to me this is what we have taught in
this church all these 43 years let's live in the good of that that's why we put some of these verses up in the

old hall as well you know things like trust god all things are possible if you can believe that's another verse it's over there we have emphasized faith you're facing a difficult situation nothing impossible for god we've also taught though we never take an offering here we have taught another verse it's more blessed to give than to receive and that's what we have taught people who come to the church you receive receive the word of god receive receive receive dear brother sister you're missing out the main blessing of god learn to give learn to share with others the goodness of god to you let your heart overflow with blessing to others and in a world of uncertainty we need that other verse which we have at the back if you fear god you need fear nothing else those are the things we have taught in this church for 43 years what shall we do what we read in psalm 78 we have to teach it to the next generation you have to teach that to your children and we have to teach it to the young people growing up here these amazing truths how jesus lived that jesus came like us and was tempted like us and he did not sin this has been our central message because it says in one timothy in chapter three that cfc i believe it refers to cfc because many churches are not doing it when other churches don't do it cfc has to do it what is that the last part of verse 15 1 timothy 3 15 let me read it like that cfc which is the church of the living god must be the pillar like these pillars here and support of this truth how you can live a godly life verse 16 jesus came in the flesh kept his spirit pure and that's how he lived in the world and went up to glory an example for us and we must never go astray from being a pillar and support of this truth because there's hardly any other church that i know around here who's proclaiming that that we can walk as jesus walked that we can learn humility from christ we can live that life where we don't want to do our own will we always seek to do god's will in the beginning it's difficult you know like a paralyzed hand if your left hand was paralyzed now you're slowly getting some physiotherapy done to slowly can become a muscular hand one day we have done our own will so many years that we are paralyzed now we are learning something not to do our own will with the will of god we got to do that physiotherapy little by little one day we will be so strong we'll be able to say i never do my own will i only do the will of god that's a muscular hand i don't speak what i feel i should speak i speak what god wants me to speak i don't know please myself i seek to please god that's become my ambition my passionate ambition as much as it will be in heaven in heaven we'll only be seeking to please god is becoming like that here on earth and if we have to pay a price for it or we suffer for it we are willing okay in closing let me read to you what i got from the message translation of second timothy chapter 2 second timothy chapter 2 paul wrote to timothy saying a lot of people in asia have left me he says in second timothy 2 and where second timothy 1 and verse 15 many people have turned away and we've seen that happen also in our church so many people have turned away from the truth so my son timothy let me read this to you throw yourself into the work of christ this is second timothy 1 sorry second timothy 2 and the whole chapter pass on what you heard from me and the whole church says amen pass it on to reliable leaders who are capable of teaching others and in your life when the going gets rough take it strongly the way jesus did a soldier must not get caught up in things in the marketplace he should not be a businessman he should not be taken up with money he concentrates on carrying out his orders and you are a soldier an athlete who does not follow the rules will never get anywhere the farmer who works hard is the one who's going to get a good crop think it over god will make it plain fix this picture firmly in your mind jesus came from the seed of david just like us and he's raised from the dead an example we can follow that's what you've heard from me all along and that's why i'm sitting in jail today but god's word is not in jail that's why i stick it out so that everyone will get to hear of the salvation in christ in all its glory here are some things that are absolutely certain absolutely certain if we die with him we will live with him if we stick it out with the lord we will rule with him one day but if we turn our backs on him he will turn his back on us if we give up on him he doesn't give up his purposes he will continue and fulfill his purposes so these basic truths repeat them over and over and again and again and again preach the same thing again

and again and again to god's people warn them before god don't get argumentative about small small little verses here and there because that will destroy your faith concentrate on doing your best for god work in such a way that you won't be ashamed explain the truth plain and simple to everybody and stay clear of all this religious language which is only religious talk your words must be backed by a godly life otherwise it's like poison to your soul hymenaeus and philetas are examples of people who miss the truth by a mile saying the resurrection is over meanwhile god's firm foundation is firm what is that god knows those who belong to him so turn away from evil in a well-furnished kitchen verse 2021 there are valuable goblets and silver platters but there are also garbage bins and we don't use garbage bins to serve meals so you've got to give up trying to be a garbage bin be a valuable container that god can use to present his gifts to others run away from the lusts that our youth run after run after rich righteousness and faith and love and peace join with those who in honest and serious prayer seek god refuse to get involved in useless discussions because they always end up in fights god's servant must not be argumentative he must be a gentle listener a teacher who keeps his cool working firmly and patiently with those who refuse to obey you never know one day god might give them a change of heart and they may turn to the truth and escape from the devil's trap brothers and sisters let's make that the vision for the future let's pray heavenly father as we bow before you we pray that your name will be glorified through us in this coming year and all the rest of the years you have for cfc until you return to earth help us to glorify you to proceed from glory to glory as individuals and as a church we humbly ask in jesus name amen

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