

SERIES: "50"- -10/27/24 (#3)

PASTOR LEE

- 50 years ago, just this week, ChristFirst Church began... founded/principled: (1) on the Word of God; (2) faith in Jesus Christ, alone, for our salvation; (3) focused on world missions AND reaching the neighborhoods of our own region.....embracing passion for the lost, the next generation, AND spiritual daily growth. This has driven our Church for the past half century. Today we celebrate that incredible past and, simultaneously, look forward with expectation with what God is going to do....with us....looking to the future.
- So we pray for even more and bigger Kingdom impact....more people putting their faith/trust in Jesus locally and all the way down the MainLine towards Philadelphia.....AND, across the Globe. While celebrating our history, certainly, God's work is not done! We are all here to do his Will...in our personal life, our family's life, our local Church and in the lives of people yet to come to ChristFirst Church.

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO OUR CHURCH!!!

- Pastor Lee thanks (!!!): all who have prayed over Church, pastored, staffed, served, attended, lead (elders, deacons, etc.) and cared for its sheep. He introduces one of the earliest pastors of CFC, Pastor Carl Green, who led for 25 years of its incredible history and who was instrumental in its foundation and growth. He still attends our Church today when he's not traveling the Globe training pastors.
- Pastor Lee expressed his own personal love of this Church and iterates all that the Church embraces.
- And now we, as a Church, are leaning into the future...tremendous/dynamic activity going on.....and God-led plans to carry forward heeding input from broad sources including 'in-church' consultants addressing issues like: capability assessment (staffing/training, etc.), long term strategic direction and analytics concerning membership and other relevant data. In regard to the latter, Pastor Lee ask that we all complete a ChristFirst survey.
- Reflective of our founders' commitment and our on-going out-reach, there are 'waves' of people in our own local communities, more and more, identifying with and attending Christ First.
- Feel Christ's presence at this Church....invite all to get more involved...serving, small groups, youth programs, etc.
- This is NOT a traditional Church....this is a Church that has Christ as its focal point.....as found in God's Word. This is core to why we exist....putting Christ #1 in every aspect of our lives....in family, jobs, activity, finances, time allocation, decision-making, etc.

1. GOD DID IT!! 2.GOD WILL DO IT!!

- Picking up on the theme above and how God worked in our Church and will continue to work, we look to the Book of Joshua. (3,500 years ago)...as the Jews are finishing their trek from Egypt and about to enter the Promised Land....they send 12 spies over the 'border' to check it out.....10 come back fully deflated, in fear, overwhelmed by the

immense fortifications, the giant people, etc.....but Joshua and Caleb come back, and in faith, declare their confidence in moving forward in victory. Notwithstanding all that God had done to get them this far (eg. parting the Red Sea), the people, in fear, lost their faith and trust....God, in response, allows their trek to go 40 years while that unfaithful generation passes away. Then...and only then, God allowed the future generation to move across into the Promised land. Then:

Joshua 1:10-11- -And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, (11) "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, 'prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in and take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess."

- The River was at flood stage- -the fortifications almost invincible but this was a grand example of something only God can do!
- Its a message that echos today.....do we want to be part of what God did, is doing and will do...or....rest on the history/laurels of what has already been done. We're about to move into the next 50 years are our hearts aligned with God's Will to grow the Kingdom?
- See Joshua 24....meditate on it.....its GOD WHO DID IT (see every reference to "I" especially in V 6-13) Its emphasized over and over in this passage.
- Embraced in all this is the bare truth....that ALL that we have....starting with and including our very breath...is from God. Our gratitude should be consciously immense. ATaking it a step further and relating to the future, its only God that can move us forward- - individually and collectively- - as a Church.
- ChristFirst Church.....from mushroom swamp (!) to the dynamic, vibrant place of worship that it is today (!).....to the global faith-spreading tentacles reaching far-off places (eg. Senegal Churches, Mexico Seminary, etc.) to whatever God wills for our Church's future and for His Kingdom..... we are eternally grateful to all who supported every aspect of our Church and our mission.
- Pastor Lee unveils new plans for expanded out door play area and grounds/other near-term exciting projects.....encourages our continued support.

THE SAME GOD WHO PARTED THE RIVER FOR JOSHUA AND HIS PEOPLE IS THE SAME POWERFUL, LOVING GOD THAT CARES FOR ALL OF US AND OUR CHURCH - - AND HIS SPIRIT IS MOVING AND SPREADING!! THANK YOU JESUS!

- - -GOD DID IT.....GOD WILL DO IT- - -

