

Today's Message: "Open Letter: Capacity Living"

"Wouldn't we all love to go back and make a few course corrections in our lives? Maybe sidestep those; 'If I only knew then what I know now' moments.' Some mistakes and failures in life can become treasured life lessons; others are just plain train wrecks. We have decided to spend November at North Way hearing from three seasoned Pastors with a combined 137 years of following Christ and 104 plus years of church ministry experience in their rear view mirror. In this four-part Series titled; "Open Letter" you will hear humble accounts of life lessons learned. Join us for an opportunity to get it right the first time!" – Scott Stevens

Faith Capacity Killers

1. Consumerism - The belief that we can find fulfillment in accumulating wealth and the things that come with wealth.
2. Individualism – Having an excessively high opinion of one-self or one's importance.
3. Universalism or New Age - "Olly olly in come free" belief.

The Gospel - "The Gospel is the good news that the gracious God of the universe has looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that all who have faith in Him will be reconciled to God forever."

A Believer – Understand that the basis (Jesus) is the only way that we are saved. The means is faith and the evidence of our salvation is our obedience and works.

- [Gnosis] - knowledge, insight, information
- [Ginosko] - taking action on that knowledge or experiencing it.

The reality of the unreached.

Of the nearly 7 billion people on the earth 4.5 billion do not believe in Jesus and of that 2.75 remain unreached, meaning they have not heard the Gospel.

The reality of poverty

Today over 3 billion people live in desperate poverty on less than \$2 a day.

"Open Letter: Part 2"

Pastor Scott Stevens

November 14 & 15, 2015

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The reality of wealth.

Low Income = \$825 or less - 37%
Lower Middle Income = \$826 to \$3,255 - 38%.
Upper Middle Income = \$3,256 to \$10,065 - 9%.
High Income, \$10,066 or more = 16% .
If you make \$25,000 you are in the top 10%
If you make \$50,000 you are in the top 1%.

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2: 14 –17, ESV)

Wealth, Poverty, Possessions, and Giving

Old Testament

- Creation
- Patriarchs
- Exodus
- Law
- Kings
- Prophets

New Testament

- Jesus Teachings
- Jesus Parables
- Acts
- James
- Paul

Summary Thoughts

1. God owns all things and we are His stewards
2. Wealth and possessions are morally neutral
3. Tithing
4. Prosperity Gospel

Ignore or Explore

Resource:

radical.net/resources-the-gospel-possessions-and-prosperity

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