

## 09.15.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** “The Basics”

**Scripture Reading:** [Colossians 1:9-14](#); [Titus 3:3-8](#); [Acts 13:13-41](#)

**Reflection:** Pastor Henry

It seemed as soon as our son could walk, he loved to play the game of basketball. To help him develop his skills, we enrolled him in various skill and training camps over the years. By far, our (and his) favorite skills training program was [Basketball Basics](#) with coach Jim McGannon. Why was this the favorite? Because Coach Jim focuses on the basic skills (the fundamentals) that are needed to play and compete well in the game of basketball. In order to be competitive basketball players need to master certain skills such as:

- Being able to dribble the ball with your head up (dribble without looking at the ball).
- Passing the ball to your teammate so that they can catch it.
- Being able to see the entire floor (playing area) while playing.
- Keeping the ball above your head when rebounding or shooting.
- Being able to protect the ball from a defender by creating “space.”

If a player is unable to execute these basic basketball skills, they will not be able to play and compete at a competitive level. Therefore, whether you are 5 years old or 18 years old, 4ft tall or 7ft tall, Coach Jim works on [developing the basic skills](#) of basketball players again and again and again until they become habits and part of who they are as a player. What is the result of this focus? The result is that countless players Coach Jim has worked with are able to compete at a competitive level in High School, College/University, and beyond.

In his sermon for this week, Pastor Doug reminded us that there are certain “basics” that are essential to our Christian faith as well. In his letter to the church in Colossae, the Apostle Paul highlights for us in Colossians 1:9-14 three “basics”, three essentials of our Christian faith.

- Continually being filled with the knowledge of God’s will.

If we are not continually filling ourselves with the knowledge of God’s will, there is no way we are going to be able to live a life that is worthy of the Lord and pleasing to him because we won’t know what a worthy and pleasing life is nor how to live it. We also won’t grow in our faith. Therefore, Paul let the church know that he continually prays for them that God will fill them with the knowledge of God’s will. Immersing ourselves again and again and again in God’s will (God’s word, God’s instruction) is a “basic” of our Christian faith.

- Being strengthened with all power according to his (God’s) glorious might.

Another basic to the Christian faith is that the power for the Christian life is not up to us. No, the power of the Christian life comes from the Spirit of God, from God himself.

Remember how Pastor Doug said it on Sunday? He said “...the power (strength) we have is not an inside job (it’s not the result of inner determination or fortitude), it’s an outside job. You or I can’t do anything unless the prime mover (God) moves you, i.e., the Christian faith is supernatural!”

If we don’t embrace this “basic” of our faith, we will fool ourselves into believing that the power for our faith is up to us and wear ourselves out/down in the process. Followers of Jesus affirm again and again and again that the Holy Spirit’s power is what is most important. Followers of Jesus cry out for and depend upon the power of

the Spirit to be at work in their hearts and life again and again and again. It's through the power of the Spirit that the fruits of the Spirit such as peace, patience, and joy grow and develop in our lives.

- Being rescued us from the dominion of darkness.

The final "basic" of the Christian life that Paul highlights in this section is that ALL need to be rescued from the dominion of darkness. No one is exempt. ALL are rescued by the death and resurrection of Jesus. There is no other way to be rescued. ALL need redemption. Jesus offers redemption to all. ALL need forgiveness. Jesus forgives all. When we move away from this "basic" of our faith, we move away from the rescuing, redeeming, and forgiving work of Jesus.

Just as basketball players need to master certain "basics" of the game to mature as a player and to play at a competitive level, followers of Jesus need to master and embrace certain "basics" of the Christian faith to grow and mature in their faith. Three "basics" of our Christian faith: being filled with God's will; being empowered by the Holy Spirit; being rescued by Jesus. Three essentials of our faith. Three fundamentals of our faith. When it comes to these "basics" of our faith, where are you when it comes to embracing and mastering them?

#### **Prayer:**

God, thank you for revealing your will to us. Fill us with the knowledge of your will. Spirit of God, strengthen us with your power. Jesus, rescue us from the dominion of darkness. AMEN

#### **Action Item for the Day/Week:**

Our Missional Practice for the Month of September:

During the month of September, pray every day for five (one for every finger on your hand) of your neighbors and five of your coworkers/classmates by name. Pray each day for them that...

- God would fill them with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives
- They might live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way
- They might grow in the knowledge of God and be strengthened by the Holy Spirit

#### **Songs for today:**

[Jesus Loves Me](#)

[Mighty To Save](#)

[This I Believe](#)