

Final Sunday of 2020 Message!
"Paul's Final Four!"
December 27th, 2020 (Church at Home Weekend!)

Intro:

MWK: - My what a year we've had!

- Here we are Sunday #52 out of 52!
- 23 of those were "Church @ Home!" like this!

SJK: - I'm sure you're like us, we are SO EXCITED about a New Year!

- Not b/c we know that turning the page on a Calendar is going to make Everything Magically Disappear & go back to Normal, but b/c there's something about a New Beginning!

MWK: - But... Before we rush to New Year's Eve, let's pause 1 final time & make sure that we are getting Everything from God that He wants us to have...

- A few weeks ago, we were reading 2 Corinthians & 1 verse jumped out at me... verse 11
- This is the 3rd Letter Paul wrote to them, (we have 2), & he has given them all kinds of wisdom, advice, chastenings, warnings, commands, etc.
- So now, here he is, at the end...
- He knows He will probably never see them again.
- & so, after all that he has said & given them, here are his "Final Four!"

2 Corinthians 13:11 "For the rest, brethren, rejoice; be perfected; be encouraged; be of one mind; be at peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (DBT)

4 Final Thoughts for 2020:

1. Be Complete.

SJK: A. Perfected - Literally means - To bring into it's proper Position.

- (whether for the 1st time or After a Lapse of time... like 2020???)

B. Paul is essentially saying, "You got away from your original intended purpose for a time, but now your whole goal is to get back to that place of completeness & wholeness that you know you're supposed to be."

C. 2020 has Knocked some pieces out of our Puzzle, hasn't it?

- MIP: ? What do we need to do to get back to the Original Picture God has for us?
- Now's the Time to engage those changes!!!
- PRACTICAL ILL'S.

MWK:

2 Corinthians 13:11 "For the rest, brethren, rejoice; be perfected; be encouraged; be of one mind; be at peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (DBT)

2. Be Encouraged.

A. Paul had said some Strong, Hard & Challenging things to them over 3 Letters!!!

- But now, as he is signing off, he wants to make sure that they are Encouraged!!!
- He wanted them to know, "You're doing a good job & you're going to get through what you're going through!"

SJK: B. MWK/SJK ZOOMING W/ TODD & JULIE

- When we were at 1 of our lowest points this year, we zoomed w/ Pastors Todd & Julie & when we were crying & at our lowest, he said, "Hey Matt & Sarah... you're going to get through this!"
- SARAH - STRONG FINISHER WORD & BRACELET!

Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

MWK: C. MIP: Church Family - We are going to get through this!!!

- & we are going to get through this together!!!

2 Corinthians 13:11 "For the rest, brethren, rejoice; be perfected; be encouraged; be of one mind; be at peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (DBT)

3. Be Unified.

A. Paul was saying, "You may have your differences of opinion & the way you see things, but stay united around one thing - JESUS!!!"
- Don't let your Differences Divide you!!!

B. Church - We WILL have our Differences, but those differences should strengthen us & stretch us, not Divide us!
- This is where America has gotten it wrong!
- We've let our Differences that should make us beautiful, make us ugly!

SJK: C. As Christ Followers, let's decide to be different than that from now on!

2 Corinthians 13:11 "For the rest, brethren, rejoice; be perfected; be encouraged; be of one mind; be at peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (DBT)

4. Be at Peace.

MWK: A. Greek - Literally means - "I am peace. I am peaceful."
- Not b/c everything is Perfect, but in spite of it not being perfect, I can still live in the Peace of God!

B. That's what we want for each & every one of you!!!
- To be In Peace with God!!!

C. JESUS SLEEPING IN THE BOAT...

Matthew 8:24 "Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping."

- The disciples were freaking out, but Jesus was sleeping!
- Church - It's possible to live like that!!!

SJK:

Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Challenge:

1. Be Complete.
2. Be Encouraged.
3. Be Unified.
4. Be at Peace.

? What do you need as we end 2020 & head into 2021???

PRAYER