

Kailua Christian Church Zoom Worship April 18, 2021

Guest Pastor: Rev. Howard Yoshida

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1:2 and Psalm 23

SERMON TITLE: "MOVING FORWARD"

SUB-TITLE: "BACK TO BASICS"

INTRODUCTION: As members of Kailua Christian Church, you are faced with a new chapter in your life with a new pastor, Dale Vallejo-Sanderson. The question is, "How do you move forward when we are all presently living in a world-wide pandemic?"

The major problems that may prevent us from moving forward is that we are focusing on the problems rather than the solutions. So, what should we be focusing on?

To move forward, we must go "BACK TO BASICS"

I. GENESIS 1:1 - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". It is God who created all of life so we must LISTEN to what our creator is telling us in order for us to MOVE FORWARD. This is one of the BASICS to follow in order to move forward.

A. WHAT PREVENTS US FROM MOVING FORWARD: 1) Listening to our faults and failures. 2) Listening to wrong principles for moving forward.

B. BASICS IN MOVING FORWARD

1. LISTEN TO GOD: What is God telling us in Genesis 1, the very first of God's message to us in the Bible? It states that (v.2) all the negatives (darkness) of life were present. As we read the rest of the Bible, they continued and will continue to exist until God decides when they will cease.

Major application of this principle: Are you listening to God? If not, what are you listening to?

a. Your faults and failures?

b. The people who are critical of your ways of thinking and actions?

c. The people you respect? They may be wrong.

2. WHAT IS GOD TELLING US? (Psalm 23) - Even if we walk through the shadow of death, we don't have to be afraid, for God walks with us and, we walk with God.

Therefore, the BASIC PRINCIPLE to follow is that LISTENING TO GOD will bring us peace and provide the instructions and strength to MOVE FORWARD.

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS:

1. WHAT IS GOD TELLING YOU? We are all living under very different circumstances so God may be instructing you to do things that are different from others. So, LISTEN TO GOD.

God may be telling you to MOVE FORWARD in ways that are far different from what I, other pastors, or leaders or friends are suggesting.....LISTEN TO GOD.

2. WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS FOR MOVING AHEAD? Is it to achieve your goals and desires or is it to have God's approval?

Key Thought: Listen to how JESUS APPLIED THE BASICS

a. Jesus was willing to suffer and die for the sins of the world and he was able to use the cross (symbol of suffering and shame) to bring salvation and new life for all.

b. How are you going to use your sufferings and failures to enable others to MOVE FORWARD?