

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: June 3, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: Psalm 51:1-6
Topic: Grasping Our Lord's Desire... By Acknowledging The Place of The Legacy in The Church Family	

Ephesians 5:18 warns us against being filled to excess, with that which gives us pleasure, to the exclusion of the leading of God. Fifty is a ripe enough age to truthfully assess the profit of the path we are on. As Parkway turns 50, let us then consider how well we are Grasping Our Lord's Desire. Today we ask that question in light of The Legacy of this church family.

Psalm 51 is a classic. It is disturbing with its focus on sin and yet it has led many to peace and restoration with God. Verse six can be designated as Parkway's 50th Anniversary Verse. The first six verses of this psalm show the psalmist making a:

- ✦ hopeful address to God
- ✦ heartfelt appeal to God
- ✦ honest acknowledgement of sin
- ✦ healthy appreciation of the order of things in God

In verses 1-2, we are led to see David's Acknowledgement of his need for God's mercy. We can almost picture David:

- ✦ begging for mercy (1a)
- ✦ banking on the magnitude of God's love (1b)
- ✦ burdened by misdirection (1c-2)

This should cause us to seek God's desire for a legacy of energy for mission. Even here at Parkway, we can reflect on the energy shown for Mission during the early years.

1. Jan. 2nd 1957: 1st Baptist Church started 1st Baptist chapel, the 5th mission of the church, to later become Parkway Baptist Church.
2. 2.5 acre site secured for church
3. Jan. 13, 1957: 13 persons began
4. June 2, 1957: Fast growing congregation broke ground.
5. March 9, 1958: Moved into building
6. Aug. 7, 1960: Ground broken again
7. April 30, 1961: New sanctuary
8. July 14, 1963: Pastor resigns to become missionary

Such remarkable energy in the early years demands of us serious Introspection into current condition and intention. To be Golden for The Lord, we need a Real Assessment of Sin's Presence.

In verses 3-4, we see David's Acknowledgement of his negation of God's mission for him. It's as if David see that he:

- ✦ has strayed (3a)
- ✦ is stained (3b)
- ✦ has offended Sovereign One (4a)
- ✦ sees the truly deserved sentence (4b)

This is a call to seek God's desire for a legacy of expansive vision for mission. In once more reflecting on Parkway's early years, we see evidence of expansive vision.

Quote from: news article on Dedication of New Chapel in 1961

"The buildings already constructed represent the first part of a master plan..When the plan is completed it will provide for 1200 in Sunday school and seating for 900 in the main auditorium." Since the first four years of our history, we

have not acquired any new property or buildings until last year's acquisition of property. We need to state our Incursions into God's Purpose because to be Golden for God means we must be Repentant over Sin.

David's Assertion of his propensity to sin is seen in verse 5:

- ✦ at the inception of his life at birth (5a)
- ✦ at the conception of his life before birth (5b)

This should prompt us to seek God's desire for a legacy of evolution of the church family as a mission. In a quote from a 1993 Rededication Booklet, *"During the late sixties and throughout the seventies demographical changes over-took the neighborhood. The mainly Anglo population gradually relocated to other areas as more and more Afro-Americans and West Indian migrants moved in. The movement was reflected in the congregation which changed from a White to a Black, mainly Jamaican, membership."* Parkway was not able to fend off the world's tendency to segregation.

There is a call to Unity and Identity. This demands of us to be sensitive to our Inclinations to sin. To be Golden for God, we must make regular acknowledgements of attraction to sin.

Verse 6 speaks of David's assertion of God's path for sinners as seen in God's:

- ✦ intention for the sinner – truth (6a)
- ✦ instruction of the sinner – wisdom (6b)

This is a call to seek God's desire for a legacy of the expectations of the church family as mission. Parkway at this half century marker must face up to the truth of the:

- a) technological age
- b) resurgence of cultural identity
- c) recognition of cultural diversity by the federal system.

Parkway must also seek added wisdom from God to deal with the aspirations & expectations of the different shades of the African Diaspora in the midst of cross cultural mix and interaction. This demands a submission to God's Imperatives. To be Golden for God, we must reaffirm our allegiance to the Pardoner of sin.

It is only as we are committed to truth and wisdom in God, no matter what our legacy is, will we fully grasp our Lord's desire. Let us therefore seek the Lord with our whole hearts and lean not on our own understanding. Also acknowledge Him in all our ways that He might direct our path.