



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: Guide-Rails - Relevant and Strong, 11/26/23 - Trends are defined by time, space, and culture; always in flux and mostly out of our control. We need something strong enough to last beyond the latest fads. Something unchanging. God's Word is the only completely reliable thing we can put our faith in. It transcends our circumstances, our feelings, and even the fads of tomorrow. (*Passages: 2 Timothy 3:16, Matthew 24:36, 1 Peter 1:25, Psalm 1:3, Acts 17:16-34*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

Why is it important to be both relevant and strong? What would a life built on something that's constantly changing be like? What kind of hope would we have?

Read Acts 17:16-34. What stands out to you in this passage. Why?

Paul took note of the collection of gods in Athens, including an altar to "an unknown god." He preached Jesus when invited to speak, and his message of relationship, repentance and resurrection intrigued many to the point of conversion. This is because the inspired Word of God is timeless. Regardless of culture or status, it is applicable to everyone everywhere. It doesn't fade out like fashion and it doesn't lose meaning with time. What can the Bible help us with? Is there any relationship it doesn't speak into? Any experience we can't apply it to?

Rooted in God's word, Paul was bold to share his faith. He was like the tree referenced in Psalm 1:3. God provided for all his needs. He was strong and fruitful, no matter his season or circumstance. Everyone around benefited from him. This is the value of engaging in the truth of God's word. What habits can you start to be rooted in the Word? How can you remind yourself of the importance and power of staying relevant and strong?

Let's stay relevant and strong by being:

1. Useful - no matter what we're doing or where we are, apply God's Word
2. Teachable - God always has more for us; we all need a humble, ready-to-learn spirit
3. Engaging - meet people by sharing the refreshing truth of who God is
4. Bigger - God's Word is bigger than politics, opinions, movements - everything. Keeping it at the heart of our words and actions makes life changing impact.

Weekly Challenge: Invite a friend to one of our exciting Christmas Services at 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve!

