



GROWTH GROUP

Zimpelmann Farewell

Week of 9/6/2020

“The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord.” The holy Christian church is not a building made by human hands, but it is a spiritual house made of living stones, people who have confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, their Savior. Built on Christ, the sure foundation, this Church will endure throughout time and into eternity, though the attacks against it will be severe. Praise God that he has made known to us the truth, that we might confess with Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God!

Getting Started

What is your first (or favorite) memory of Pastor Zimpelmann? *Answers will vary.*

Into the Word

Read **Matthew 16:13-20**.

Why must Peter’s confession be ours? How will this occur? It is through Christ alone that we can enter the kingdom of God. This confession can come to us only as it is revealed to us by God, for our sinful natures could never come to this knowledge on our own. It will be revealed to us by the Holy Spirit through the means of grace, and once made, it can withstand even the fullest onslaught of the weapons of Satan.

What are the keys of heaven? How amazing that Christ should give us the keys to his kingdom! Those keys are the authority that Christ gives us to lock and unlock the doors of heaven. To those who are repentant, we may offer forgiveness through the gospel and throw the doors of heaven wide open! But to those who do not repent, we must use the law to lock the doors of heaven, lovingly praying that they will, through this action, confess their sins and receive life.

Read **Romans 11:33-36**.

How is this praise hymn fitting for us this week? Truly, who can understand the mind and judgments of the Lord? We’re enduring a year filled with major devastations and minor disasters. But God, instead of treating us as our disobedient rebellion deserves, he uses it as a platform to extend his mercy and grace. Additionally, at this time we find ourselves thanking God for the ministry of Pastor Zimpelmann with us over the last 11 years. All glory belongs to God alone!

Apply

When have you found yourself demanding answers from God lately? Has it been because of major devastation, minor disaster, or personal distraction? Come up with at least three. Answers will vary. Be sure to point the group to the answers God has given us, rather than jointly dwelling on the answers God has not given us.

When are times you have been able to praise God even though it was a time when doing so didn’t make sense to most people? Maybe it was a time of loss or rejection, a time of suffering or sorrow, a time when many people would think to curse God, and you were able to recognize you still had much reason to praise God. Answers will vary.

What do you think you might do differently if you were God? Do you see how doing that might cause greater problem? Answers will vary.

What has Pastor Z done or taught you that you’d like to thank and praise God for? Answers will vary.

Around the Room

Share your highs and lows for the week as well as your prayer requests for the group.

Pray