

Get to Know the Holy Trinity (July 19, 2020 by Rev. Anthony Menzel-Pre-taped)

**** Today we continue to have a lot to pray about...*

I feel very strongly that the church should not just be following societal norms; instead, the church, as the representative of Jesus Christ on the earth, should be society's moral compass, setting the norms according to God's Word instead of following them...

1) I am wearing black for the 62 million babies and counting killed by abortion...

2) I am wearing black for the people who have died in the over 200 school shootings that have occurred in the U.S. since 1999...

3) I also want to lift up victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and harassment, including rape and even murder...

I have been led by the Spirit to include these victims after reading about the story of Vanessa Guillén...

<http://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/featured/vigil-vanessa-guillen-latino-community-calls-investigation-soldier-killed-army-base/>

The remains of the 20-year-old soldier were found buried about 20 miles east of Fort Hood, ending a two month search after she vanished from the Texas base. Army officials told the family it took longer to identify the remains because Guillén was bludgeoned so terribly that they were unable to use dental records.

Guillén, who had been missing since April, was killed and dismembered by U.S. Army Specialist Aaron Robinson, a 20-year-old soldier who took his own life to avoid being arrested. Cecily Aguilar, a 22-year-old civilian from Killeen, was taken into custody and charged with helping hide Guillén's body.

"Military leaders and others keep saying that because of reforms made in the past few years, the military has made progress but needs additional time for reforms to truly take hold," added Congresswoman Moore. "How can there be progress when most people who suffer sexual harassment or

assault in the military will never report it? It is clear that we need bolder and stronger reforms if we are going to significantly change a culture that is quick to blame and punish those who suffer, while failing to hold perpetrators to account.”

The U.S. military has a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of the young women and men that take an oath to defend the country, and critics charge that leaders have been failing in that duty. Guillen’s family has said that she previously experienced sexual harassment, but was afraid to report the incidents for fear of retribution.

“Serious allegations have been made regarding the lack of transparency of the investigation into her murder, as well as inaction on numerous complaints of harassment made against the individual suspected of taking her life in a most brutal and barbaric manner,” said Morin.

According to the Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, Fiscal Year 2019, there were 7,825 reported sexual assaults in the U.S. Military. That represents a 3% increase over 2018. There was also a 10% increase in the number of sexual harassment claims. The Department of Defense also saw an increase in victims who confidentially disclosed their assault without starting an official investigation by 17% with 2,126 reports being filed. The data illustrates a clear lack of faith in the chain-of-command to address the issues. Even though the numbers are staggering, they represent only a fraction of the actual acts of harassment and assault because victims most often choose not to disclose such personal attacks.

“All those people who praise the military and honor our soldiers, where are their voices now? Why are they unable to show support for this American, who was killed on an Army base?” said Maria Hernández in a tweet. “They are silent because Vanessa Guillen was a Latina, and in the absence of words their racism speaks for them. #JUSTICEFORVANESSAGUILLEN”

After a Mariachi band brought a conclusion to the vigil, the Black Lives Matter rally continued marching to the Our Lady of Guadalupe mural painted by Mauricio Ramirez and Chacho Lopez across from the St. Josaphat Basilica. Homemade signs memorializing Guillen were left at the mural, along with candles and flowers. Further speeches were made by participants before the march continued north.

My own life has been touched by domestic violence in a number of ways, so this is an issue that is personally important to me...

4) Today I continue to wear black to honor George Floyd,

Italia Kelly...

David McAtee...

David Dorn...

Breonna Taylor...

Eric Garner

Byron Lee Williams

Derrick Scott

Rayshard Brooks

And all those who have been harmed by and even died from police brutality and corruption, including my grandmother Carmen Chávez

I am wearing black for them, and I am wearing black because there is so much wrong with this country...

All of these people who have been killed are important to the Lord Jesus, so we will collectively lift up a prayer for spiritual awakening in their remembrance...

My prayer is that not one of these people will die in vain...

*****Today's message is entitled "Get to Know God"

Two weeks ago, in my message entitled, "Have Christ's Agenda," I started the message with the following passage...

1. Luke 10:38-42

38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. **39** And she

had a sister called Mary, who also sat at [k]Jesus' feet and heard His word. **40** But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

41 And [l]Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. **42** But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

This passage is more important now more than ever...

We have talked about the Rapture of the church and the end of the world in recent sermons...

I cannot emphasize enough to people that while we are close to the end of the world, our focus should not be on the fact that the world is ending...

Our focus should be on staying close to the Lord Jesus no matter what...

Some believers are worrying about the Mark of the Beast...

I am here to tell you that you do not need to worry about the Mark of the Beast if you are a close follower of the Lord Jesus...

2. Revelation 3:8, 10

⁸ "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, [f]and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

¹⁰ Because you have kept [g]My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Those of us who are faithful to the Lord will be raptured before the Second Half of the Great Tribulation, when the devil will rule over the whole world, when the hour of trial or tribulation will come over the whole world...

Even if you were to get left behind in the Rapture of the church, you will be fine in the end if you put the Lord Jesus first...

You may have to die for your faith, but if you refuse to let other people or things be more important to you than the Lord Jesus, then you will be fine in the long run even if you have to die for the Lord Jesus...

3. Revelation 13:11-18

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives ^[f]those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has ^[g]the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number *is* 666.

4. Revelation 20:4-6

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I* saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for ^[a]a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

So it is important to know about end times events to help us be as prepared as possible for the trials we will face...

However, at the same time, our focus should simply be on the Lord Jesus... We cannot let bad things going on around us cause us to lose our peace... In the midst of the storm, we can and should even have joy much of the time...

5. Isaiah 26:3

You will keep *him* in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You,
Because he trusts in You.

We should not let injustices, problems, and negative circumstances get to us...

Sometimes it may be hard, but one of our goals as believers is to walk in Christ's peace...

6. Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ [a]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

If we do not have joy in our lives, part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit is missing in them...

So in the midst of difficult circumstances, how can we focus on God? How can we be joyful if our bodies hurt or if we are emotionally wounded?

One thing I really want to encourage the body of Christ about is getting any help that is available to you when you need it...

I never want to be the type of minister to tell people who have access to medical care that they should show their faith in Jesus Christ by not going to the doctor if prayer does not initially bring healing to their bodies...

I believe that we should pray before we go to the doctor to see if the Lord Jesus wants to heal us without medicine...

However, if prayer alone does not work, it does not make us more spiritual to avoid medical help...

I believe that lasting healing has to come from treatments that are anointed by the Lord Jesus, but I also believe that God can anoint medical treatments, just like He has anointed medical treatments in the past...

7. Isaiah 38:1-5, 21

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.' "

² Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, ³ and said, “Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a ^[a]loyal heart, and have done *what is good* in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

⁴ And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, ⁵ “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. ⁶ I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city.” ’ ⁷ And this *is* the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing which He has spoken: ⁸ Behold, I will bring the shadow on the sundial, which has gone down with the sun on the sundial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward.” So the sun returned ten degrees on the dial by which it had gone down.

⁹ This is the writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness:

¹⁰ I said,
“In the prime of my life
I shall go to the gates of Sheol;
I am deprived of the remainder of my years.”

¹¹ I said,
“I shall not see ^[b]YAH,
The LORD in the land of the living;
I shall observe man no more ^[c]among the inhabitants of ^[d]the world.

¹² My life span is gone,
Taken from me like a shepherd’s tent;
I have cut off my life like a weaver.
He cuts me off from the loom;
From day until night You make an end of me.

¹³ I have considered until morning—
Like a lion,
So He breaks all my bones;
From day until night You make an end of me.

¹⁴ Like a crane *or* a swallow, so I chattered;
I mourned like a dove;
My eyes fail *from looking* upward.

O ^[e]LORD, I am oppressed;
^[f]Undertake for me!

15 “What shall I say?

[9] He has both spoken to me,
And He Himself has done *it*.

I shall walk carefully all my years
In the bitterness of my soul.

16 O Lord, by these *things men* live;
And in all these *things is* the life of my spirit;
So You will restore me and make me live.

17 Indeed *it was* for *my own* peace
That I had great bitterness;
But You have lovingly *delivered* my soul from the pit of corruption,
For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

18 For Sheol cannot thank You,
Death cannot praise You;
Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth.

19 The living, the living man, he shall praise You,
As I *do* this day;
The father shall make known Your truth to the children.

20 “The LORD *was ready* to save me;
Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed instruments
All the days of our life, in the house of the LORD.”

21 Now Isaiah had said, “Let them take a lump of figs, and apply *it* as a poultice on the boil, and he shall recover.”

22 And Hezekiah had said, “What *is* the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?”

Just like there are doctors to help us with physical ailments, there are professionals that can help us with emotional problems. Granted, it is very important to go to Christian professionals to help us with moral and emotional decisions. However, such professionals, whether they be counselors, psychologists, or therapists, can be very helpful to us with emotional wounds, just a like a medical doctor can be helpful to us when we are battling physical wounds...

My family and I currently see a Christian therapist who has been wonderful at helping us deal with many of our family issues...

During the session my wife and I had with her this week, she mentioned something that helped to inspire today's message:

"We should delight in knowing and understanding God"

When we delight not just in the blessings the Lord Jesus gives, but in knowing and understanding Him more, then it will become easier and easier to walk in peace and joy even in the midst of difficult circumstances...

This takes me back to the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10...

It is very important to try our best to be like Mary, to be people who have time to get to know the Lord Jesus

by praying and studying the Bible. We also get to know the Lord Jesus by putting into practice in our lives the things that we learn when we study the Bible and by doing what the Lord Jesus tells us to do when we pray...

The Lord Jesus used the Apostle Paul to write about the importance of getting to know the Lord Jesus...

8. Philippians 3:1, 7-11, 20-21

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

² Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship ^[a] God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain^[b] to the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing Toward the Goal

¹² Not that I have already attained,^[c] or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have ^[d]apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already ^[e]attained, let us walk by the same ^[f]rule, let us be of the same mind.

Our Citizenship in Heaven

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

It makes sense to spend time on getting to know Him not only because of the great love the Lord Jesus shows for us but also because our eternal home is in heaven with Him; we are just temporarily passing through this earth...

Remember that great love the Lord Jesus shows us...

9. John 15:13

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

So remember to delight yourself in getting to know the Holy Trinity... Getting to know God should be something that we consider to be a delight, a joy, an activity that brings us happiness...

The result of finding such joy in the Holy Trinity will be the gaining of greater strength and blessing in your life, too...

By having that strength, you will be able to face the rough times...

10. Nehemiah 8:8-12

⁸ So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the ^[b]governor, Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day *is* holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day *is* holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹¹ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day *is* holy; do not be grieved." ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

Finding your principal joy in getting to know the Lord Jesus will also cause you to be more fulfilled...

11. Colossians 2:6-10

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding ^[d]in it with thanksgiving.

⁸ Beware lest anyone ^[e]cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead ^[f]bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all ^[g]principality and power.

Finding your principal joy in getting to know the Lord Jesus will fill your life with more blessings that you can imagine...

Of course, not all of these will be material blessings, but they will be there notwithstanding...

12. Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father ^[f]of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—
¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

13. Malachi 3:6-18

“For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;
Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.
⁷ Yet from the days of your fathers
You have gone away from My ordinances
And have not kept *them*.
Return to Me, and I will return to you,”
Says the LORD of hosts.
“But you said,
‘In what way shall we return?’

Do Not Rob God

⁸ “Will a man rob God?
Yet you have robbed Me!
But you say,
‘In what way have we robbed You?’
In tithes and offerings.
⁹ You are cursed with a curse,
For you have robbed Me,
Even this whole nation.
¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,”
Says the LORD of hosts,

“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you *such* blessing
That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*
11 “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”
Says the LORD of hosts;
12 “And all nations will call you blessed,
For you will be a delightful land,”
Says the LORD of hosts.

The People Complain Harshly

13 “Your words have been [c]harsh against Me,”
Says the LORD,
“Yet you say,
‘What have we spoken against You?’
14 You have said,
‘It is useless to serve God;
What profit *is it* that we have kept His ordinance,
And that we have walked as mourners
Before the LORD of hosts?
15 So now we call the proud blessed,
For those who do wickedness are [d]raised up;
They even tempt God and go free.’ ”

A Book of Remembrance

16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another,
And the LORD listened and heard *them*;
So a book of remembrance was written before Him
For those who fear the LORD
And who [e]meditate on His name.
17 “They shall be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts,
“On the day that I make them My jewels.[f]
And I will spare them
As a man spares his own son who serves him.”
18 Then you shall again discern
Between the righteous and the wicked,

Between one who serves God
And one who does not serve Him.

14. Psalm 37:3-4

Trust in the LORD, and do good;

Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

⁴ Delight yourself also in the LORD,

And He shall give you the desires of your heart.