

Why Walter Hill? Ephesians 1:15-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Today is a day my family and I have been looking forward to for the last couple of months.
- B. Since our decision to move to Walter Hill became public, we have been met with one question over and over again. The question is, "Why Walter Hill?" Why say yes to working with this congregation?
- C. This morning I want to answer that question for you. I know this is not only a big change for our family, but it is also a big change for you all as well. I want you to know what it was that drew us to this place and also what our hopes are for this congregation moving forward.

THE SHEPHERDS

- A. There are certain offices which carry great responsibility (president, governors, CEO's, etc.). Although we may not treat it as such, the office of shepherd is the highest office or position a man can hold.
- B. God has given shepherds the great responsibility of overseeing the flock of God.
 - 1. They must shepherd and be a good example for the flock (I Pet. 5:1-3).
 - 2. They must shepherd the flock knowing they will give an account to God (Heb. 13:17).
- C. We will be a church that loves and praises our eldership.
 - 1. We will respect and esteem them very highly in love (I Thess. 5:12-13).
 - 2. We will be slow to criticize them (I Tim. 5:19).

THE BIBLICAL TEACHING

- A. Paul encouraged Timothy to always preach the Word knowing there would be people who didn't want to hear the truth (2 Tim. 4:1-4).
- B. Preachers today are preaching for praise and popularity instead of heeding the words of truth.
 - 1. Paul warned against teaching a gospel contrary to the truth (Gal. 1:6-10).
 - 2. We are thankful this congregation has long had a deep love for the truth found in God's Word.
- C. We will be a church that stands for the truth.
 - 1. We will proclaim the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27) in a spirit of love (Eph. 4:15).
 - 2. We will never be ashamed to teach the truth no matter what society tries to push (Rom. 1:16).

THE RELATIONSHIPS

- A. One of the biggest criticisms against the church is how Christians treat others.
- B. Jesus said people will know we are His disciples by our love for one another (Jn. 13:34-35).
- C. We will be a church that loves and cares for others.
 - 1. We will look for opportunities to love and care for our own (Jn. 13:15; Matt. 20:26-28).
 - 2. We will look for opportunities to love and care for those who are not brothers and sisters in Christ.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Our scripture reading this morning, came from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. Listen closely to what Paul says about those Christians and the high praise he gives them (Eph. 1:15-16).
- B. Paul was thankful for two things: their faith and love toward all the saints.
- C. If we keep doing what we've done and continue to look for ways to do more, WH will be a place our friends want to come and we will have a big impact on the community around us.