
A. Bible based

Bay Ridge Christian Church is a Bible based church. All of our ministry must be based on the Scripture. We believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and that it alone is the final rule for the faith and practice of individual believers and the Church. While we value the tradition of Church history, and the opinions of godly men and women, only the teaching of the Scripture is binding on the heart and conscience of the Church.

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

Matthew 15:6b “Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

This also means that the teaching of the Scripture has a vital place in the ministry of our Church. We believe the careful exposition of the biblical text is one of the greatest needs in the Church today. Therefore we devote ourselves to the study and observance of the Word, and to teaching it in the Church.

Ezra 7:10 “For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.”

1 Timothy 4:13 “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.”

2 Timothy 4:2-5 “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

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Finally, this also means that we encourage everyone in the Church to be a student of the Word of God. We believe that God commends those who do not simply accept what they are told, even by respected Church leaders, but have the integrity to examine the Scriptures for themselves and see if the message is biblical.

Acts 17:11 “Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

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Isaiah 8:20 “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.”

Teaching Tapes Available for Further Study on Being Biblically Based:

Christ, His Word and His People – January 3, 1999
Revelation Preserved: The Word of God – February 5, 1995
The Apostles Doctrine: The Word of God – April 14, 1996
Letting the Word Dwell Richly at BRCC - June 29, 1997

B. Christ Centered

Bay Ridge Christian Church is a Christ centered community. This means that our focus as a church is on Christ Himself. This is appropriate because Christ’s Person and work are central to biblical revelation.

John 5:39 “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.”

Luke 24:27 “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

Luke 24:44 “He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’”

2 Timothy 3:15 “... from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

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This means that although we believe that involvement in the affairs of the community, social activities for people in the church and discussion regarding the issues of our day are important and have a place in the life of the church, the central focus must always be Christ Himself. No other activities or issues must shift our primary focus from Christ Himself.

Colossians 2:6-10 “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,¹⁰ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”

