Nov. 6, 2016 - Elevation Ballantyne Campus Sermon Notes
Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: I Know (I am I am hurting, concerned, and burdened), But I’m Not Nervous

Scripture:
• 2 Cor 1:6-11 (NIV): “6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. 8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, 11 as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”
• Rm 8:28: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
• Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV): 11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
• Psalm 121: Psalm 121 (NIV): A song of ascents. “1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. 3 He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; 6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; 8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”

Pre-sermon discussion points:
• Elevation Worship: "Call Upon The Lord": “We need no other hiding place. Our hope is safe within your name. This we know, this we know you promise never to forsake. What you began you will sustain. This we know, this we know I will call upon the Lord. For he alone is strong enough to save Rise your shackles are no more. For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain. All of the heavens and the earth Announce the fullness of your worth. This we know, this we know. And every enemy will flee. As we declare your victory. This we know, this we know. I will call upon the Lord. For he alone is strong enough to save. Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ. Has broken every chain. Jesus' name will break every stronghold Freedom is ours when we call his name. Jesus' name above every other. All hail the power of Jesus' name. I will call upon the Lord. For he alone is strong enough to save Rise your shackles are no more. For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain”
• Recap from thought leaders at Code Orange revival in preparation for the forthcoming Beyond Series
  o **Louie Giglio**: I do believe that God’s grace and his anointing is on this house – and your very best days are still in front of you. If you think that you have seen everything – trust me on this – you have not seen anything. Are you prepared to invest to make a table big enough for every single person?
  o **John Gray**: The next ten years will see an exponential growth where Elevation is going to be necessary in Europe, in Demark, and Asia and wherever else. Where God needs a new sound.
  o **Christian Cain**: You are going to see such an acceleration – where what used to take months is going to take weeks and what used to take weeks is going to take days. What God has for you has not yet entered into your heart. God is doing a new thing in this church.
Levi Lesco: God’s favorite math is exponential growth. As Elevation continues to grow, there is nothing that can’t be reached and nothing that can’t be touched – So long as you continue to reinvest in your miracles and you continue to stay humble.

- Elevation Worship (new song led by Chris Rock): Forever Be Exalted. You are still God.

“I Know, but I am not nervous” by Pastor Steven Furtick.

- I was led to 2 Cor 1: 6-11 because there is a lot going on this week and stakes are high, but I know that I am not nervous.
- Paul would like to set the record straight since there are too many rumors circulating – where there is too much noise and not enough signal.
- We are drowning in opinions and we don’t have a drop of truth.
- Others are talking badly about our poor Paul – where all he ever did was to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and minister and help other believers.
- Here in 2 Cor, other ministers are seizing a political opportunity to run a smear campaign against Paul – where the NRA and Democratic would be envious and could not come up with a better way to discredit someone. Neither one on the left or the right could do any better than the opponents of Paul to discredit him. Here in 2 Cor, Paul wants to say what is on his heart to set the record straight.
- In other words, Paul wants his readers to hear things straight from the source. It really does matter where you get your information from. It is strange thing where we live in an age where all information is deemed equal and takes up the same amount of space on our time line. And so we don’t know if we are listening to someone that knows what they are talking about or there is a commercialized interest that is manipulating the information. It is safe to assume that everything that we listen to is either diluted (watered down) or polluted (added to) and it is hard to even trust what you hear these days. And Paul was even frustrated about that while suffering from political and religious oppression.
- See vs 8. Paul says, we do not want you to be ignorant. Here Paul is addressing things that we think we know and things that we need to know – despite all of the access – what they are getting is not true to reality.
- Paul uses a Greek word word ἄγνωσις, agnōsia, "not knowing" (cf. Attic Greek ἄγνωτος "unknown", and -λογία, -logia to mean either cultural ignorance, unaware, or mis-informed – where Paul suggests that people have been exposed to a lot of information but know little about the facts.
- Paul says it not that you are getting a bunch of information, it is that the information is so far removed from the source – that it is no longer pure.
- A Pastor Steven Classic: Important point: Not all ignorance is created equal. There are different levels of dumb:
  - There is an innocent ignorance – where you have not yet been afforded the opportunity to learn yet. Sort of like correcting a young 5-year old.
  - There is an indifferent form of ignorance where you do not care enough to find out or want to know something. Where your response is I just do not care. Consider that guy that is engrossed in fantasy football and has not been to church in the last six weeks. A Pastor Steven classic: We sound so dumb when we say: “I don’t care about climate change because Jesus is coming back on a horse just before he nukes the place – Paul says, I do not want you to have that kind of hope. Paul says I don’t want you to have this cotton candy form of Christianity – where you are ignorant of the afflictions. Paul says, I want you to know some things.
  - The most dangerous form of ignorance is those that exhibit a confident form of ignorance. Not uninformed – but misinformed. They think they know everything about something – when in fact they know nothing. Part of Christian maturity is having
enough wisdom to know what you don’t know. Consider the rebellion of teenager that says with confidence that the music of 1990s was not that good – without reference to the essential source material. A Pastor Steven classic: There is always something before what you enjoy that enabled what you are a part of – this why I can’t stand people who complain about this country who don’t even know the first thing about the price that was paid for you to have the right to express your opinion stating that you do not like this country.

- Paul says: Get in the know.
- Paul says I do not want you to be misinformed about the price that was paid or misinformed about the situation.
- Paul says that I do not want you to be misinformed about the hope that you enjoy came at a huge cost and ain’t cheap. It came hard.
- Ignorant hope is not hope at all. There is nothing stable about it. This is hope that is buried in the sand.
- Let’s review the wisdom of Pastor Rob Parsley: Anyone can sing the tune on a clear day. God, give me a song at midnight.
- Paul says, my hope came the hard way.
- See vs. 10. This sounds like a modern day campaign slogan. When we don’t understand the source of our hope, we begin to sound kind of silly. “Well you Christians, you are merely waiting on the apocalypse, you don’t even vote – you just pray.” It is an ignorant imitation of hope. It is not confidence, it is complacency.
- Paul wants us to know what he went through and what he has been through.
- Paul says: He will deliver us again! You can only say that if you know where this hope comes from.
- Do you really believe that? Well, how do you know?
- During this election cycle, people are either ignorant or nervous. A Pastor Steven classic: “They are either in Canada or they are nervous.”
- Paul says hey wait a minute! I have a hope and but it is hard boiled hope. It is not an unaware hope. I see what is going on out there. I know. I am not uneducated. I am not back woods. I am not waiting for the clouds to split – so I can go to glory land and shout my troubles over. I have troubles right here and I am in them. And it concerns me about our schools, it concerns me as to how certain communities are treated, and it concerns me about how people are marginalized.
- What are we going to do?
- We are nervous.
- Paul says I was beat 39 times by the Jews. Don’t talk to me about your nervousness unless you understand the source of my hope – the hope that has been through hell.
- And this hope came from heaven and the world did not give it and it can’t be taken away – and it does not come from the left and it does not come from the left. Paul says I have set my hope on the one who is above it all. I have set my hope on this rock.
- Paul says: I am concerned, but I am not nervous because I have a peace that surpasses all understanding.
- It does not mean that we are not disengaged. We are engaged. We are not apathetic because we disagree with the options that my culture (that we help create) have presented to me. Hello!
- But I am not nervous. I am hurting, concerned, and burdened, but I am not nervous. Paul says: I was utterly burdened and my heart was empty. I was so far out there beyond what I knew what to do that I was scared of life itself. Can we bounce back from this one?
• Elevation eGroup notes: “In 2 Corinthians 1:6, Paul says that his distress may lead to “comfort and salvation.” Is anyone you know going through a hard time? How can suffering and frustration lead to strength?”

• Are there any other thought leaders that help us understand this point?
  o David faced Goliath, an enemy that completely outsized him. What is a struggle you are facing today that makes you feel small?
  o Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednigo were condemned to death by a fiery furnace because they wouldn’t bow down and worship an idol at the King’s command. Have you ever had to take a stand for what is right, even though the consequences were serious?
  o Consider Daniel in the Lion’s den.
  o After a long day of teaching the multitudes, Jesus noticed that his people were getting hungry. He told the disciples to feed them, even though they didn’t have any food or money. The disciples felt completely under sourced to do what God asked them to do. When is the last time you felt like you didn’t have enough ____________ to do what God was calling you to do?
  o When Jesus and his disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee, a storm came and threatened to capsize their boat. The disciples were terrified. When is the last time you felt overwhelmed by circumstances outside of your control?
  o Also consider the trumped-up trial of Jesus by Pilot.

• Elevation eGroup study notes: “Each of the stories we just discussed ended in victory. God is always faithful to deliver his people, and hope is always found in hardship. Paul says that “great pressure” exists so that we “might not rely on ourselves, but on God, who raises the dead.” Choose two words to describe who God is to you in your time of trouble. What do those words mean to you? How will you choose to rely on God when life makes you nervous this week?”

• Elevation eGroup study notes: “Pastor Steven reminded us that we don’t have to panic because we have a purpose. What purpose has God given you on Earth? (i.e. share the gospel, support my family, lead my children) How can you remain a faithful student, employee, parent, etc. even in a time of “distress”? Write down one goal for yourself this week and share it with the group.”

• The god we serve is able and will deliver us from the fire.
• Say I am not nervous.

• If we get nervous in the same spirit of the world that caused the division and dis-function, how will the world look at us? If you lose your cool, what is so distinct about your Christian faith? What kind of hope did you have if one election cycle can cause you to become un-glued?
• If you try to put your hope on how you feel, you are going to be less than pleased.
• If you try to put your hope in what other people can do for you, you will be upset at the outcome. That is like me asking you to hold this pulpit while I preach.
• What about all of the stuff that you have been putting on other people?
• See Jer 29:11
• God says I know (and you do not) the plans that I have for you.
• And we know that all things work towards the glory of God. See Romans 8:28.
• Say this: I am not nervous because I have purpose.
• He is got a plan.
• I am here to glorify God.
• I set my hope to whom is higher.
• I tried nervous, however, I did not like it. It made me irritable. I gained 30 lbs. It did not make me part of the solution. It turned me into a critic. It did not change anything.
• See Psalm 121.
KH eGroup study questions:

1. Per Pastor Steven: Paul wants his readers to hear things straight from the source. It really does matter where you get your information from. It is strange thing where we live in an age where all information is deemed equal and takes up the same amount of space on our time line. And so we don’t know if we are listening to someone that knows what they are talking about or there is a commercialized interest that is manipulating the information. It is safe to assume that everything that we listen to is either diluted (watered down) or polluted (added to) and it is hard to even trust what you hear these days. Paul says it not that you are getting a bunch of information, it is that the information is so far removed from the source – that it is no longer pure.

Question: Applying a biblical world view, how can you tell the difference between genuine thought leadership and information noise?

2. Pastor Steven: The most dangerous form of ignorance is those that exhibit a confident form of ignorance. Not uninformed – but misinformed. They think they know everything about something – when in fact they know nothing. Part of Christian maturity is having enough wisdom to know what you don’t know. Consider the rebellion of teenager that says with confidence that the music of 1990s was not that good – without reference to the essential source material. A Pastor Steven classic: There is always something before what you enjoy that enabled what you are a part of – this is why I can’t stand people who complain about this country who don’t even know the first thing about the price that was paid for you to have the right to express your opinion stating that you do not like this country.

Question: What does the above say about a country that has been in 12 major wars and 30 minor conflicts (since 1775) with a total number or casualties = 2,671,519 (and growing)?

3. Pastor Steven: There is an indifferent form of ignorance where you do not care enough to find out or want to know something. Where your response is I just do not care. Consider that guy that is engrossed in fantasy football and has not been to church in the last six weeks. A Pastor Steven classic: We sound so dumb when we say: “I don’t care about climate change because Jesus is coming back on a horse just before he nukes the place – Paul says, I do not want you to have that kind of hope. Paul says I don’t want you to have this cotton candy form of Christianity – where you are ignorant of the afflictions. Paul says, I want you to know some things.

Question: What do you think Pastor Steven means by “cotton candy form of Christianity”