

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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12/3/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, & Sanctification - Part 23

Outline:

The Gospel

The issue is the sovereign, holy God of the universe and how He has been offended, NOT how His Gospel might be offensive to man.

The Gospel

A gospel without integrity to the fullness of the Person of Jesus Christ is a false gospel. Any presentation of the true Gospel must unapologetically impose a relationship between Christ and an individual.

Personal Relationships

One of the fundamental reasons that God became man was to personally relate to His creatures and provide a way for His creatures to personally relate to Him!

The Great Commission

For many years (2+ decades for most books), the NT was circulating among people, unwritten. The presentation of the Gospel was through personal interactions. Relationships were key, not written words or tracts. Jesus fully expected that people would be presenting His good news to other people this way.

The Great Commission

We cannot be so unloving as to suggest that we do NOT have to be personally invested in those we share the Gospel with! If that "fire" has been suppressed, have we not "quenched the Spirit" (1Th 5:19)? Is it also possible that some who this fire is quenched altogether may not be saved themselves?

"What do I value most in this world?"

Theology 101

If it's a command in the Bible, then it involves free will.

Greek

- Present Tense: action is habitual; a lifestyle
- Active Voice: Action performed by the subject of the sentence (e.g.: you).
- Present + Active: a "lifestyle choice" (many commands in the Bible refer to lifestyle choices!)

Cause and Effect

The Word of God encourages us to consider our motivations, the root causes of our actions.

What Do You Value Most?

The higher up your scale of values something is, the more attention you give it...the more motivated you are to "please" the demands of that person or thing.

Believer's Bible Commentary - MacDonald

"The believer who is filled with the Spirit is occupied with Christ and not with self."

Filling of the Spirit

To be "filled/controlled" by the Holy Spirit means a believer is following His commands (e.g.: He doesn't want you living in sin, He wants you to love others, etc.).

"through the grace given to me I say"

the essence of Paul's person was grace-orientation; he always made a point of reminding his disciples of this simple fact (e.g.: 1Co 15:10)

"What do I value most in this world?"

Salvation

Only God can grant repentance since man's entire person is bound to the self-life prior to being regenerated. Man is incapable of breaking that fleshly bond - he is powerless to do so - therefore, GOD grants repentance (aka the breaking of the fleshly bonds) AND also grants the "new" tie that binds, faith in Jesus Christ.

Grace

Repentance is an act of God upon a humble heart. It is no more work and no less a grace gift than saving faith.

God's Perfect Gift

If a person has been GIVEN repentance from God, it means that the fruit they bear will be after its own kind! This doesn't mean a person won't ever sin again; rather, it means that the new creature will be repulsed by sin (the bad fruit of the old life).

Repentance and the Vestiges of Sin

For a true believer, it's going to feel like even though you've turned your back on sin (repented), it will remain "behind your back" trying to sow death in your life.

The Force of the Gospel

We know dogmatically God's will, *"who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* (1Ti 2:4). God does everything possible to save man; however, He won't ever breach man's free will.

God Saves

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1Ti 1:15). Jesus Christ is God. God saves us by grace. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

To Paul, the Gospel was a reality, not a past experience. (Ro 1:16-17)