

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

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11/22/15 - Guest Speaker: Evangelist Scott Grande - The  
Fullness of the Gospel

### Outline:

#### **The Magnitude of the Gap**

Notice in Peter's two gospel messages, in Acts 2 and 3, he elaborated on their guilt, and their rejection of the Holy One from God. He elaborated on their sinfulness, and the gap between them and God.

The difference between a man's self-righteousness and God's righteousness is as high as the heavens are above the earth. Isa 55:8-9, 64:6

The Gospel message today is often made about the individual and their comfort, not about the need to satisfy the Lord and His majesty and righteousness.

Often the deep, sinful nature of a person's selfishness is never addressed. The deeper need of reconciliation with a holy, righteous God, on His terms of unconditional surrender, is never addressed.

Saving faith is a surrender of the heart to God, which means repenting from self-sufficiency or self-sanctification, and trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, instead.

Man's legitimate desires (i.e. to be loved, to be healthy, to be accepted...) can become idols, and water down the Gospel, making it about them, not about the Lord.

When we share the gospel of Jesus Christ, we need to direct people to take their eyes off themselves and their personal desires, and take a look at GOD and His righteous demands, and then His indescribable love. Eph 2:1-10

In witnessing to others, we let the light of Christ shine, by our words and actions. And that doesn't take our ability, but simply our humility; our willingness to be used by Him. Then we watch Him go to work through us.

You may even get the opportunity to act as a friend towards an enemy, and that light of Christ will be so glaring in the darkness, it must be stared upon in awe.

It's not only what we say, it's the heart behind what we say (are we speaking out

of love, as a friend?), and then, once we have the right heart, it's in allowing the Spirit to fill our mouths.

We need to learn to be human, and real, and give others a chance to enter our lives; not just be robotic Christians who give the gospel and run.

### **Remember what He did for YOU?**

He who is forgiven much, loves much, Luk 7:47. It will be EASY for you to love others who don't deserve it, even your enemies, when you remember how much He forgave YOU of.

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The fullness of the Gospel must include an emphasis on our need for reconciliation with a perfect, holy God.

Those who are spiritually sleeping in this world (without Christ) need to be made aware that as sinners, they DO NOT have peace with God, and they CAN'T have peace with God on their own merits!

Repentance is a reality that the sinner is called to. And as we've been seeing, that's part of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **The Fullness of the Gospel**

This is why Jesus would say "deny yourself" and "follow Me". Self is in the way.

One must turn away from self-reliance (repent), before they can trust in Christ for salvation (believe). Mar 1:15