

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

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11/29/15 - Guest Speaker: Evangelist Scott Grande - The  
Fullness of the Gospel - Part 2

### 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. THEN he gave the solution, even waiting until they asked for it!

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

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.

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.

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.

People need to know that they need to adjust to the Justice of God, and thus the

need for "repentance for forgiveness of sins" being proclaimed in His Name. Luk 24:47

### **Acts 11:18**

*When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."*

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.

People first need to realize that as sinners they NEED reconciliation with a Holy God, and THEN the Good News that Someone has paid their debt. The fullness of the Gospel starts with God's Justice, and then flows to His love.

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

This is why Jesus would say "deny yourself" and "follow Me". Self is in the way. One must be willing to turn away from self-reliance/sin (repent), before they can trust in Christ for salvation (believe). Mar 1:15

### **"Tell The Truth" by Will Metzger**

*"Understanding that God, not us, is The Evangelizer (the one who brings results) is wonderfully liberating. This makes witnessing an adventure in which we merely ride along with God as He moves out."*

### **Food for Thought**

The Spirit will lead us into a different gospel presentation each and every time! God doesn't need to repeat Himself in the exact same way, ever. And His Spirit lives in you, knowing what each soul before you needs to hear.

### **Various Gospel Presentations**

Stephen shared, out of love for his brethren, his heart for them and for God, and boldly laid before the Jews the depth of their sinfulness. Acts 7

### **Various Gospel Presentations**

But then in Acts 10, we have a humble crowd, Cornelius and his friends and family. They were already God-fearing, but needed to know about Jesus Christ. And so Peter was called to visit them.

### **Various Gospel Presentations**

In Acts 17:30-34, Paul called all men to repent, and some ended up believing, without being given that direct command.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ can be given in a variety of ways, all meant to lead people to saving faith in Christ. It is the Spirit who is out in front, guiding men according to the situation. Acts 2, 3, 7, 10:34-43, 17:30-34.

### **Being Saved**

Let that realization come from the Spirit Himself, and the Spirit gives assurances

as they see the fruits of a changed life. 1Jo 3&4

What we see in the book of Acts is the apostles declaring the truth about Christ, sometimes to individuals and sometimes to groups, and then those who believed the message followed them. That's it.

### **1 Cor 15:2 NIV**

*By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

### **Will Metzger**

*"Regeneration and conversion are words to describe two different ways of viewing salvation. Regeneration is viewing salvation from God's side; it is an instantaneous impartation of new life to the soul. We may or may not be conscious of the exact moment this happened to us.*

### **Will Metzger**

*Conversion, on the other hand, is viewing salvation from our perspective. It is a process of the entire work of God's grace from the first dawning of understanding and seeking, to the final closing with Christ in new birth. For some, this is a period of years; for others merely an hour. We respond in time to God's action in eternity."*

It helps to realize that people are not always regenerated the first time they begin calling on the name of the Lord. (i.e. the demon possessed woman following Paul, and those the Lord said He never knew, and Simon the sorcerer.... )

### **Our forefathers...**

They called an unbeliever, who had no signs of being receptive, a "sleeping sinner".

When they saw someone starting to respond to the Spirit's working, and starting to learn and listen, they called them "seeking sinners", or "awakened".

The problem is the tendency in modern Christianity to rush someone into the kingdom at the slightest sign of interest in spiritual things.

Even Jesus was cautious at times with certain people, not giving them a false hope, but even testing the spiritual conviction of his would-be disciples (i.e. Nicodemus, and the moral rich man).

### **Will Metzger**

*"Point them to a personal Savior - not just to the meaning in life, peace of heart or the like - because the root of our rebellion is personal sin against God (Jer 29:13)."*

### **Will Metzger**

*True salvation not only secures the forgiveness of rebels, but their obedience as well. Heb 5:9*

### **Signs of Salvation**

If some of those 'markers' aren't there in a new believer's life, they may only be a professing believer. Remember, it is possible to believe in vain! 1Co 15:2

### **Signs of Salvation**

Jesus was trying to convict them of the fact that, unless their deeds matched their claim of a faith, it was not real. Joh 8:30-59

The Bible instructs people who believe in Christ to make sure they perform the deeds that come with true repentance. For that is the evidence that their faith is genuine. Mat 3:7-10, Luk 3:7-14, 19:8-9, Joh 8:39-42, Acts 26:19-21, (from John the Baptist, to the Lord Jesus, to the Apostle Paul, and the letters of James and John)