

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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6/30/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 99

The Water of the Word

There's something new and refreshing every time we read our Bibles, even if it's the 100+ time we've read a certain book or passage. If we're humble, God gives us a greater grace! (Mt 13:12; Jas 4:6)

Ecc 1:9

*That which has been is that which will be,
And that which has been done is that which will be done.
So there is nothing new under the sun.*

Context of 1 Timothy

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, a long-time known godly pastor who Paul had taken "under his wing". Timothy was born in Lystra (Galatia), but Paul sent him to multiple churches to spread the Gospel. Timothy was in Ephesus when Paul wrote this letter.

1Ti 6:2

Paul encouraged Timothy to teach the church authority-orientation (to sow goodness), specifically so that it would bear fruit (reap) to the benefit of the brethren. (ala Gal 6:7)

"those of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Paul, the majority writer of the NT, made this statement around 63AD, a few years before his death, and about 7 years after he wrote the Book of Romans. He still clung to the words of Jesus, regardless of who he was teaching, whether Jew or Gentile.

"who suppose godliness is a means of gain"

Some believed that knowing and/or even acting piously was of some value, but that's never the case unless such "fruit" is motivated by true faith.

"contentment"

from autarkeia - means self-sufficiency, unflappability; in context in 1Ti 6:6, implies this person isn't focused on the "gains" of being faithful, rather that they are actually "being" faithful.

There's only peace in the light...

...never in darkness.

"to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous"

Americans, in general, are taught to pursue wealth for a better life for self. The Bible teaches us to pursue the ability to live and share with others. The vehicle may be the same (making money), but the motivation and the beneficiaries differ completely.

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Context of American Life

The true test for most American believers is whether or not they will take their worldly riches (the vast majority are very wealthy compared to the rest of the world) and use those resources to the benefit of spreading the Gospel. Peace evades those who refuse.

"False Knowledge" In America

- God blesses us for us (vs. "for others")
- America is a beacon of light to the world (we are fat cats)
- Passive evangelism is Biblical (where we wait for others to come to us, sometimes begging, for help)
- We aren't like the Corinthians (when we truly are)
- Idolatry is excusable because it's part of our culture (1Jn 5:21)

Faith Is Not Stagnant

Faith moves, it is a dynamic, living thing. It's not dead and lifeless.

Knowing Is Not Living

Knowledge is just the beginning. It's building a toolbox full of tools that are meant to be used to build things, fix things, and help others, both believers and unbelievers. However, LIVING by faith means actually USING the tools, not just for self, but for others.

Knowing Is Not Living

Living is what makes faith come alive. In fact, without living in what you believe, your faith is not appropriated, or consummated. Until you LIVE in what you say you believe, you won't really understand what you say you know. You won't fully "get it", and you won't be set free.

Knowing Is Not Living

God teaches us outside of the Bible, through application, through living. The truths in the Word of God become real to us when we live them.

"Why am I here?"

We already know!!!...to evangelize...stop searching for it, or striving, or whatever (in darkness)...for this IS the Light!!! You don't have to search for some "greater

purpose" in your life, it's already been given to you!

Jn 15:19

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."

"the truth will make you free"

The Truth is not merely "knowledge" - the Truth is ALL that the Word says, including the commands to obey, to go evangelize, etc. The Truth includes the promises of blessings when we "do", not merely "hear" (Jas 1:22).

Unmotivated "Evangelism"

Do you think it's possible that those who remain unmotivated lack faith to "go out" (ala Mt 28:18-20) because the actual content of their message is wrong, or minimally incomplete? God won't motivate a person to spread a false Gospel.