

FREEDOM

(For FREEDOM Christ has set us free! Gal 5:1)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, September 26/27, 2015

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“Living out the Gospel” Galatians 2:11-21

Being able to articulate the Gospel with accuracy is one thing; having its truth captivate your soul and applying it to every area of your life is altogether quite another.

What does it mean to be “In Step with the Truth of the Gospel”?

- V14 “In Step” = Greek “orthopedeo” straight walking
- The Gospel is the Good News of what God has Done to make us right with Him. V16
 - Christian living is a continual realignment process—one of bringing everything “in step” with the truth of the Gospel. vv14, 17-18
 - We are to think out its implications in every area of our lives, and seek to bring our thinking, feeling, and behaving “in step”. vv19-20

What are the Two Thieves of the Gospel?

Gospel transformation occurs when we keep from walking “off-step” (or out of line) either to the right or to the left of the Gospel. V21

1st Thief: Religion (moralism/legalism) stresses truth without grace. I must obey to be accepted by God. This will lead to either superiority (b/c you think you’ve lived up to the standards therefore God owes you) or inferiority (b/c you can’t live up to the standards therefore you deserve to be punished).

2nd Thief: Irreligion (hedonism/license) stresses grace without truth. I am accepted by God therefore I don’t have to obey. This can lead to either superiority (b/c you are so open minded & accepting unlike religious people) or inferiority (b/c you are still bound up by sin).

The Gospel stresses both truth and grace. I am accepted by God’s grace through faith in Christ therefore I obey. I was so sinful Jesus had to die for me (eliminates superiority), but He loved me so much that He wanted to die for me (eliminates inferiority). John1:14; 1John1:7-9

Case Studies:

RACE & CULTURE

Religion: Moralists idolize their race and culture as supreme. (v14)

Irreligion: Liberalists relativize all races/cultures making no distinction between good and evil. Motivate by guilt. (v12)

Gospel: God didn’t have fellowship with you on the basis of your race and culture. (vv15-16) Racism is rooted in a failure to believe in grace.

DISCOURAGEMENT & DEPRESSION

Religion: You are breaking the rules so repent.

Irreligion: You just need to love and accept yourself.

Gospel: Something has become more important than God and it is collapsing. Ps16:4

SELF-CONTROL

Religion: Control your passions out of fear of punishment.

Irreligion: Express yourself and find out what is right for you.

Gospel: The power of sin’s promise is always broken by the power of God’s. Titus2:11-12

LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS

Religion: It’s all about rules and roles without true intimacy.

Irreligion: Love is a feeling that you unpredictably fall in and out of.

Gospel: You don’t fall into love. You commit to it. Love is saying I will be there no matter what. 1Cor13:4-8

Growing Notes

- 1) Being able to articulate the Gospel with accuracy is one thing; having its truth captivate your heart is quite another. Explain. How is the Gospel not just our ticket to heaven but the basis for how we relate to God, ourselves and others?
- 2) Read Galatians 2:11-21. What stands out to you from this text? Why did Paul rebuke Peter (vv11-13)? What was Peter’s motivation for doing what He did (v12)? How did Peter’s behavior influence other Christians (v13)? What did Paul say in response to Peter’s hypocritical behavior (v14)?
- 3) What does it mean to be “in step with the truth of the Gospel” (v14)? How is a person justified before God (v16)? How is Christian living a continual realignment process of thinking out Gospel implications for every area of our lives (vv17-20)?
- 4) What are the two thieves of the Gospel? How do they rob us of joy and power setting aside Jesus as Savior (v21)? Review the Case studies. What have you learned most from this study? Pray that we at db know and live the Gospel.