



**The Gospel Changes  
Everything!!**

# Changing The Way We Think

- **Focused on the Here and Now!**
- **Followers of Jesus live in light of Eternity**
- **We Evangelize and tell people of a future judgement**
- **We help the poor and work for justice because we know this reflects the character of God and that one day, God will overcome all oppression**
- **The “Already but Not Yet” nature of the kingdom prevents utopian planning or pessimistic withdrawal**

# Changing The Way We Think

- The gospel affects the way we should think about everything
- The Gospel is not that it saves sinners so that “Christians” mature by trying hard to live biblically!
- We are saved by “believing” the gospel and then letting IT transform the way we think about every segment of our lives

# Enemies of the Gospel

- ➔ In the past we have talked about the 2 belief systems that seek to steal the gospel from us.
  1. Moralism/Religion – stresses truth without grace, saying we need to obey truth to be saved
  2. Relativism/Irreligion – stresses grace without truth, claiming we are all accepted by God, and we each decide what is truth for us.
- ➔ To emphasize one over the other falls into legalism or license

# Enemies of the Gospel

- Jesus is GRACE and Truth. Truth without grace is not truth, and grace without truth is not grace
- Keller speaks of how the power of the gospel comes in 2 movements.
- The first says, “I am more sinful than I ever dared believe.”
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> quickly follows with, “I am more accepted and loved than I ever dared hope.”
- Truth is to hold both in balance

# How We Think About Racism

- **Moralist, Use truth to evaluate cultures and race. Self superiority, idolize their culture as supreme**
- **Relativist says, We can all get along, there is no truth to evaluate right or wrong**
- **The Gospel leads us to be critical of all cultures and races because we ALL fall short and we are saved by grace alone.**
- **If we are the victims, we know God accepts us**
- **Gal.3:28 – in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek**

# The Gospel Changes How We Think

- Discouragement and Depression
- Religion/Moralists say, You are breaking the rules, Repent
- Relativist says, You just need to love yourself
- Assuming it is not physiologically based...
- The Gospel says, Something in my life has become more important than God. An idol that makes promises it cannot deliver and demands action you cannot live up to. (alcohol, popularity)

# How We Think About Sexuality

- **Moralist tends to see sex as dirty or a dangerous impulse that always leads to sin**
- **Relativist sees sex as a biological physical appetite**
- **The Gospel shows sexuality as a picture of the self-giving of Christ. If we give ourselves sexually than we also to give legally, socially, personally**
- **As Christ is faithful to us we are to be faithful to our partner**

# How We Think About Death

- **Moralist or Religion says, Hope your good works out weigh your bad when you stand before God**
- **Relativist says, Live Hard, Get all you can cause when you die its all over. “it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment” Heb.9:27**
- **The Gospel says Salvation by Grace through Faith in Jesus gives confidence to view death for the follower of Jesus, not as the end of life, but rather as the beginning of Life.**

# How We Think About Death

- ➔ **2 Cor.5:4 – “so that, what is mortal may be swallowed up by LIFE”**
- ➔ **This is existing, With Jesus it is Life - 4**
- ➔ **Now we live in a tent, then a mansion -5:1-3**
- ➔ **1 Cor.15:35 This body is a seed, the new body is a flower**
- ➔ **Rev.21:4 - Here there are tears, there, no more tears**
- ➔ **Here there is trouble, there, Love joy Peace**
- ➔ **For Me to Live is Christ, to die is gain!**

# How We Think About Joy and Humor

- **Moralist** – Bible says we are to be sober-minded. Serious business to be about the kingdom of God
- **Relativist** – Evil will triumph in the end. We live to work and then we die. No hope for the world.
- **The Gospel** – If we are saved by Grace alone this salvation is a constant source of amazed delight. Because our Joy is found in Christ, it is not subject to the disorder of this world

# How Do We Change The Way We Think?

- 1.** Ask yourself, “Have I surrendered control of my life or I have I just been doing religion?”
- 2.** Commit or Re-commit your life to being a follower of Jesus, everyday.
- 3.** Ask the Holy Spirit to
- 4.** Read the Bible to know what it says about different aspects of life. God’s view is there.
- 5.** Find someone to be your coach and friend through this process