CREEKSIDE’S TEACHING NOTES for Sunday, October 25, 2015



Rediscovering The Good News

GOSPEL . . . “good news”

*“The super fantastic, you’ve got to be kidding me,*

*amazingly wonderful news!”*

GOSPEL

Life right now

Heaven

Spiritual birth

GOSPEL

GOSPEL

“Gospels of Sin Management” presume a Christ with no serious work other than redeeming humankind . . . (and) they foster “vampire Christians,” who only want a little blood for their sins but nothing more to do with Jesus until heaven.

 Dallas Willard, The Divine Conspiracy, pp 35-39

• The gospel is God doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

• It is one thing to understand the gospel and an entirely different thing to experience the gospel.

• The gospel is the source of our identity and the source of our security.

gospel

irreligiousss

religious

The gospel is neither religion nor irreligion – it is something else altogether. Religion makes law and moral obedience a means of salvation, while irreligion makes the individual a law to him – or herself. The gospel, however, is that Jesus takes the law of God so seriously that he paid the penalty of disobedience, so we can be saved by sheer grace.

Timothy Keller

I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you. . . By this gospel you are saved . . . Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,. . . he was buried, . . . he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:1-3

RELIGION

“I obey: therefore, I’m accepted.”

Motivation is based on fear and insecurity.

I obey God in order to get things from God.

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or myself. I believe that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.

When I am criticized, I am furious or devastated. I need to think of myself as a “good person.” Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs.

My prayer life consists largely of petition, and it only heats up when I am in a time of need. My main purpose in prayer is control of the environment.

When I am living up to my standards I feel confident, but I am then prone to pride or lack sympathy for unfailing people. If and when I am not living up to my standards, I feel humble but not confident – I feel like a failure.

My identity and self-worth are based mainly on how hard I work, or how moral I am – and so I must look down on those I perceive as lazy or immoral.

GOSPEL

“I’m accepted: therefore I obey.”

Motivation is based on grateful joy.

I obey God to get God – to delight in and resemble him.

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I struggle, but I know all my punishment fell on Jesus. While God may allow this for my training, he will exercise his Father love within my trial.

When I am criticized, I struggle, but it is not essential for me to think of myself as a “good person.” My identity is not built on my performance but on God’s love for me in Christ.

My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose is fellowship with God.

My self-view is not based on my moral achievement. In Christ I am both sinful and lost, yet accepted by Christ. I am so bad that he had to die for me, and I am so loved that he was glad to die for me. This leads me to deep humility and confidence.

My identity and self-worth are centered on the one who died for me. I am saved by sheer grace, so I can’t look down on those who believe or practice something different from me. Only by grace am I what I am.

Adapted from Timothy Keller Gospel in Life