

Gospel Therefores

Living Like It's Not All About Me

Gospel Passion

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, February 26, 2012

2 Corinthians 3 – 5

When the glory of the Gospel and this new covenant of grace explode in your life... you experience a radical re-orientation as to how you even see the world around you. And your life gets set on a new trajectory... with new eyes... and a new way of processing data or connecting the dots as to how you interpret and process life.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Five Corrections or Life-Alterations that get triggered and set in motion in a person's life when you truly embrace the Gospel indicatives of all that God has done FOR us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

I. You Stop Promoting Yourself and You Start Serving and Pointing People to Christ

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

When the Gospel takes root in your life you go from a selfish, self-promoter to delighted... devoted... ‘dulos’... the Greek word for ‘slave.’

We're not just promoting some cause... we're living wide open for Jesus Christ because the message of the cross and the person of Christ have turned our lives upside down and inside out!

II. You Stop Running from Suffering and You Lean into It with a Radically New Perspective

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

It’s only when suffering is set in the sturdy frame of the Gospel that you can even begin to see for the very first time – that for the Christian – suffering never has the last or loudest word!

Just like chemo shrinks the size of those cancerous tumors... the power of the Gospel shrinks the EXTENT of our suffering... and changes the INTENT of our suffering.

It’s only when you embrace the Gospel indicatives of all that God has done for us... that you can humbly and joyfully lean into your suffering... knowing that you’re leaning into the very arms of a sovereign Father who’s promised to use it for His glory and your good.

III. You Stop White-Knuckling this Life and you Start Living with a Bold New Hunger for the Next

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

The fear of death is usurped and triumphed over by a much greater anticipation of being in the very presence of our Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ!

The Gospel hope of heaven breaks the spell this world holds over so many people who are forced to live as if this is IT... because as far as they know this IS IT.

The word ‘yearn’ speaks of longing for something... typically something you’ve lost or been separated from...what you see in the Bible... is that human beings are created in the image of God... and so by nature have a yearning and a longing for home – to be at rest and peace with the Father!

“You are made for a person and a place. Jesus is the person. Heaven is the place.” Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (Wheaton: Tyndale House, 2004), 37.

“Nothing is more often misdiagnosed than our homesickness for Heaven. We think that what we want is sex, drugs, alcohol, a new job, a raise, a doctorate, a spouse, a large-screen television, a new car, a cabin in the woods, a condo in Hawaii. What we really want is the person we were made for, Jesus, and the place we were made for, Heaven. Nothing less can satisfy us.” Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (Wheaton: Tyndale House, 2004), 166.

IV. You Stop Chasing After Short-Term Gain and You Start Living with a Long-Term Goal of Pleasing God No Matter What

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

V. You Stop Living for the Tiny Kingdom of Self and You Start Living as an Ambassador of Jesus Christ

- You live for Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

- You live with a new freedom and perspective

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

- You live with a new purpose and calling on your life

2 Corinthians 5:20 “Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”