

Rooted: Grow Deeper. Live Taller.

Part 6 The Whole Gospel Col. 1:21-29

Mosaic Rockford - Dave Spooner – Sept. 18th, 2016

Intro:

- The tree of Christianity grows from being grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Today, my aim is that you will grow deeper in your understanding of the gospel and its implications for how you are to live.

Col 1:21-22 ESV

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

The result of the gospel: reconciliation through Christ

- We were separated (alienated) from God and hostile against him because of the way we thought; because of our thoughts, we committed evil deeds.
- Jesus brought us into a good relationship with God; reconciled us by his death to God.
- In order to present us holy and blameless and above reproach before God.
- This all happened because of what Christ did for us.
- Salvation is not based on a merit system. – we have right standing before God because of what Christ has done on our behalf.

Col 1:23 ESV

if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

The condition of the gospel: perseverance in Christ

- This is called “perseverance of the saints”
- As long as we are in Christ, our salvation is secure. (continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel)
- Ill. of Paul and his ship wreck

Col 1:24-26 ESV

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

The price of the gospel: suffering with Christ

- Suffering comes in all types of forms
- The gospel has come by suffering and through suffering
- Suffering and sacrifice is always involved in delivering the message of the gospel.
 - This is why most people don't evangelize nor do missionary work. There is no such thing as a painless proclamation. The message of the gospel has and does come with a cost.
- When we suffer for the cause of the Gospel, we are suffering alongside and with Christ. Christ's afflictions continue to this day through our suffering, because we would not be suffering for the sake of the church if it was not for Christ.

- And the work does not stop with evangelism, but there must be discipleship
 - Great Commission (Go and make disciples of all nations)
 - Discipleship means to “make the word of God fully known” through knowledge, application and experience. (Follow me as I follow Christ)

Col 1:27 ESV

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The message of the gospel: hope through Christ

- Images of Hope
- “great among the gentiles”.. . it is the children of faith not those who are physically born (Rom 4)
- Christ in us . . . is the hope of glory!

Col 1:28-29 ESV

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

The goal of the gospel: maturity in Christ

- Image of tree
- Mature in Christ is the goal of the gospel . . .
- Comes through proclamation, warning teaching and wisdom . . . and difficulty

James 1:2-5 NIV

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Conclusion

- The “whole gospel”
- **The result of the gospel: reconciliation through Christ**
- **The condition of the gospel: perseverance in Christ**
- **The price of the gospel: suffering with Christ**
- **The message of the gospel: hope through Christ**
- **The goal of the gospel: maturity in Christ**