

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself – Week 4

The Gospel's Effect on Sin

Premise #1 – I am daily beset by a sinful flesh that always craves what is contrary to the Spirit.

How do we prove this?

- Galatians 5:16-25
- This is war!
 - 1 Peter 2:11
 - Romans 7:21-24
- You don't put on the armor of God in peacetime! (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Why does this struggle exist?

- We inherently desire “fullness” or “satisfaction”
 - We were made to be satisfied by God!
- We see this in several ways
 - Personal testimonies
 - Biblical Accounts
 - Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:6)
 - Woman at the well (John 4:4-15)
 - The crowd that Jesus feeds (John 6:1-14, 25-34)

Why do we often turn to sin to fill (satisfy) us?

- We believe the lie!
 - That sin will somehow satisfy us
 - We are deceived
- This points us to an underlying root issue
 - The problem of being EMPTY
 - If we address our emptiness, then sin will not be nearly as enticing, and we will be able to fight back more effectively

How, then, could preaching the Gospel to yourself help in this situation?

- It's the key to putting to death our fleshly desires!
- We fill ourselves up on the Gospel and the God it points to
 - Then we won't be empty and looking for sin to fill us
- Scripture tells us this is possible
 - Ephesians 1:23 – He is the God who “fills all in all” or “everything in every way”
 - Ephesians 3:14-19 – We are told that we may be “filled to the measure of all of the fullness of God!”
- The Gospel points us to the God behind the message
 - This is the God who desires us to be satisfied with nothing less than fullness in Him
 - He is the God in Ephesians 5:18 who says to “be filled with the Spirit” (not the flesh!)

So, what is the effect on our desire for sin when we're full of these Gospel truths?

- John 4:13, 6:35 – Jesus says we will never be hungry or thirsty again!
 - We will be SATISFIED in Him!

Milton Vincent – “As I perpetually feast on Christ and all of His blessings found in the Gospel, I find that my hunger for sin diminishes and the lies of lust simply lose their appeal. Hence, to the degree that I am full, I am free. Eyes do not rove, nor do fleshly lusts rule, when the heart is fat with the love of Jesus.”

Premise #2 – As long as I'm stricken with the guilt of my sins, I will be captive to them.

Unhandled sin eats away at us! Often, we keep on sinning because we feel condemned by guilt!

- Psalm 32:1-5 – David's accounting of his unhandled sin and then, eventually, his right response
- Romans 6:1-14 – Paul tells us to remember the Gospel! Sin is not our master; we are under grace!
 - The Gospel kills the power of sin!
 - I am reminded of my position in Christ, the forgiveness available to me, and I am freed from the condemnation of the guilt of my sin (as I handle it with the Lord in confession and repentance – see 1 John 1:9)

Closing Thoughts - I preach the Gospel to myself daily...

- To be filled with its truths and to find my satisfaction in Christ and our heavenly Father instead of sin!
- To nullify the power of sin's guilt over me, as I remember that I am forgiven as I confess and repent of my sin!