

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself - Week 5

Exposed by the Cross: A Right View of Self

Testimonies of those who have gone before me!

- John Newton - Amazing Grace
- Isaiah – In the presence of God (Isa. 6:1-6)
- Apostle Paul – Reflecting on Gospel truths (Rom. 5-8)

What do they have in common?

- Their response of awe before a holy God

I, too, ought to be distraught over sin in my life.

- It is because of this sin that Christ had to die
- The meditation can't stop there!
 - That is only ½ of the Gospel
- Remember, God chose to send Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17) – this is AMAZING GRACE!

This complete Gospel gives me an opportunity:

- An opportunity to reflect on the magnitude of God's saving grace & forgiveness
 - Which motivates me to respond with heartfelt worship & delight in Him!

Premise #1a – The deeper I go into the Gospel, the more I comprehend & confess aloud the depth of my sinfulness;

Premise #1b – The deeper I go into the Gospel, the more I respond in praise & thanksgiving as I reflect on God's great forgiveness, grace & mercy

Milton Vincent calls this process “being exposed by the Cross.”

The Gospel not only exposes me to myself, it also exposes me to everyone around me!

- If I am in Christ – I am a self-proclaimed sinner
- The sinless Son of God had to die for me!
- The worst possible “gossip” about me is blaring from the mount of the Cross

How should this affect the way that I live?

- No more self-righteousness – My righteousness is only found in Christ (Rom. 5)
- No room for pride – I will boast in Christ, not myself (2 Cor. 12:9-10; James 4:6)
- Nothing left to hide – I am able to be vulnerable and open

Premise #2 – The more exposed I see that I am by the Cross, the more vulnerable I will be with others about ongoing issues of sin in my life.

There is value in being exposed by the Cross!

- It reveals the depths of my depravity to myself and to others
- It also reveals the extravagant grace of our Almighty Savior and our heavenly Father
 - To myself
 - To others
- These two revelations create the perfect environment:
 - In us – for pride to die and humility to grow
 - As I am real about my sin
 - As I ask for help and accountability
 - As I seek wise counsel and prayer
 - For others
 - To see God at work in us
 - As we come to them for help (Eccl. 4:9-12; Gal. 6:2)
 - To hear the Good News!
 - As we live out the Gospel message in front of them

Preaching the Gospel to myself, in response to being exposed, motivates me:

- To rest in Christ's righteousness
 - I am freed from the burden of working my way to heaven
 - I can rejoice knowing He maintains my justified status before God (Rom. 5:1-2; 1 John 2:1-2)
- To have the right outlook on life
 - On my worst days of sin and failure, God's grace is unrelenting towards me
 - On my best days of victory and usefulness, I can only relate to God based on Jesus' righteousness, not mine