

GOSPEL 101
December 17, 2023
Gospel Themes – Kingdom

THESIS

Tim Keller: The main problem, then, in the Christian life is that we have not thought out the deep implications of the gospel, we have not “used” the gospel in and on all parts of our life... All of us, to some degree live around the truth of the gospel but do not “get” it. So the key to continual and deeper spiritual renewal and revival is the continual re-discovery of the gospel.¹

REVIEW

GOSPEL THIEVES: IDOLS

OKAY(ISH): Jesus + X (good thing) = Happy

IDOL: Jesus – X (ultimate thing) = Despair

GOSPEL: Jesus – X = For me

GOSPEL THEMES

ADOPTION - into a family with a good Father, who calls me his own son/daughter, loves/proud of me

KNOWN – priority, seen, rescue, love, origin, intimacy, in part now, in full to come

COVENANT – God’s unconditional, binding commitment of love for you

KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION - The Second Article: Redemption

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, **that I may be His own** and **live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him** in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

1. Relationship - Covenant

2. Responsibility - Kingdom

Simon Sinek - “Very few people can clearly articulate why they do what they do. “By why, I mean your purpose, your core belief – why does your company exist? And why did you get out of bed this morning?”²

¹ Excerpt from Tim Keller’s article “The Centrality of the Gospel”. Available in pdf by request. Send me an email at nperegoy@oflc.net.

² If you love leadership practice, this TED talk is a classic. https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action?language=en

THE (GOOD) ORIGIN OF OUR LABOR

GENESIS 1:27-28 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

MY LABOR IN MY VOCATIONS

1. Make a list of your vocations. (hint: consider your relationships).
2. Put (+1) next to the vocations that are going well, fulfilling, etc., at the present time
3. Put (-1) next to the vocations that are not going well at the present time.
4. Total your net score:

My vocations:

My Score: _____
out of _____

THE EMPTINESS OF OUR LABOR (LIFE WITHOUT A TELOS)

ECCLESIASTES 2:22-23 - What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless. (ESV: this too is vanity)

Why is that the case?

1) Doing - Something is wrong with our _____.

GENESIS 3:17-19

2) Being - There's something wrong with _____.

GOD'S TELOS – TO COME

Telos – the end to which all things relate, the aim, the ultimate purpose that is to come

You've got a telos...

God has a telos

1 CORINTHIANS 15:24–26 - Then comes the end (*telos*), when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-14, 51-58

THE ABUNDANCE OF OUR LABOR

Abounding is a Greek word (*peri-seu-eh-o*) – present active participle. (a present, ongoing action)

EPHESIANS 1:18-20

I pray that you may know... what is *the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead* and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10 - But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

HEBREWS 4:9-11 - So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has (declared).

OUR GOSPEL-FORMED TELOS TODAY

1. UP STREAM: GOD’S WORK FOR YOU

Martin Luther - “The mother who sweeps her kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays—not because she may sing a Christian hymn as she sweeps but because God loves clean floors. The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that **IN THE LORD** your labor is not in vain.

2. DOWNSTREAM: GOD'S WORK THROUGH YOU

The telos is not the doing, the work itself – the telos is the person behind the doing

REVIEW TOGETHER

What's one thing that stands out to you from our time together today?

(Choose one: comforting, convicting, confusing, curious)