



conneXions

...growing God's family...

Issue 45

Loved Forevermore

| Tullian Tchividjian

Amongst other things, the gospel is the good news that if we, by faith, embrace all that Christ has done for sinners, then we can be assured that absolutely nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39). Once we know that we're forever loved by Jesus, we're free to love others regardless of the risk, because our deep need to love will be satisfied.

A friend once told me, "My home is an unloving place." When he returned there everyday from work, he said he wasn't loved the way he longed to be loved by his wife and kids. I listened to him, and we talked further. Eventually I responded, "Maybe, just maybe, you're looking at this from the wrong perspective." I suggested that for six months he ask himself the following question each day when he came home from work: "Who here can I love? Who here needs my love right now?" I told him to pray about this before he walked in the door, asking God to show him the answer to that question. This man did that, and things

at home changed.

Unfortunately, the fear that our love toward others will not be reciprocated is something that paralyzes many of us. It prevents parents from properly loving their kids, and husbands and wives from properly loving each other. We come to this conclusion: I will love you only to the degree that you love me. It's an attitude that enslaves us. But the gospel frees us from that.



I too enjoy receiving love from my family. I'm ecstatic when my kids love me and express affection toward me. Something in me comes alive when they do that. But I've learned

this freeing truth: I don't need that love, because in Jesus, I receive all the love I need. This in turn enables me to love my kids without fear or reservation. I get to revel in their enjoyment of my love without needing anything from them in return. I get love from Jesus so that I can give love to them.

The gospel tells us that God in

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Pastor's Desk	2
Financial Report for June	3
Before the Throne of God Above	3
Welcome New Members	3
Church Calendar for August	4
Mission News	6
Time Well Spent - R.C. Sproul	7
The Gospel - Jay Adams	8
Taking God's Promises to Their Maximum - C.H. Spurgeon	8

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Monday 3rd 7:30pm Board of Management
- Sunday 9th 10.00am Lord's Supper
- Monday 24th 7.30pm Elders' Meeting (Session)

Our Mission Statement

– why do we exist? –

Glorifying God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit by growing His family through Biblical teaching, prayer and loving relationships locally, nationally, and internationally.

Our Vision Statement

– where are we heading? –

As a Gospel driven church we aspire to establish 15 self-replicating growth groups across the church by 2012.



From the Pastor's Desk

So, apparently one in five Australians watched the grand final of Masterchef. Seven of them were at our house. By the end there was

not a dry eye on the set and there may not have been a dry eye at home as well.

The finals of Australian Idol, Biggest Loser and (more understandably) Big Brother didn't evoke such a response. Why this time?

I believe that the fact that the contestants were doing something productive and were developing skills that could be used in real life was one reason why the contest resonated with the public. But over the last three months we've also had something of a relationship cultivated with the contestants. Every time we read their Christian names (not surnames) on the screen we are given their occupation as well. Some family detail has been carefully introduced along the way.

A noticeable difference has been the general camaraderie between the contestants and also among the judges as well. Even the less popular contestants were genuinely congratulated by their peers when they succeeded. There was not typecasting among the judges, no 'industry voice', no 'critical judge', no 'maternal presence'. When criticism was merited it was given in a construc-

tive manner, when praise was due it was generously delivered.

So, what can we learn from this exercise in community:

1. People gathered for a purpose pursue their purpose with a single focus. While there was a prize, cooking was the goal. The church are God's people gathered so that the Gospel can be spread. That goal should trump every other consideration.
2. When one excels, all celebrate. It was noticeable that even those subject to elimination were positive about the achievements of the others. Friends, Christians aren't even subject to elimination. Why not celebrate what goes right instead of looking for fault?
3. Encouragement is powerful. The judges were also the teachers, they were also the cheerleaders. The contestants had opportunity in certain challenges to work together. They aimed to build each other up. Again, in the context of a competition I expect there may have been some level of gamesmanship. The church is not a competition. Christians should be generous with praise and constructive advice.
4. A second chance is powerful. One of the finalists, Poh, had been eliminated, but subsequently was invited back into the competition by the judges. In addition, at her initial audition, Poh's application meal was rejected but the judges gave her an opportunity to cook a second dish. It was on the basis of that dish that she was accepted. Christians know all about receiving something underserved. We

should be ready to give as many second chances to others as God give us.

5. Learn and move on from an honourable failure. Every single contestant managed to serve up a few disasters. They all picked themselves up, dusted themselves off and got back into the competition.

The cause of the Gospel is far more worthy than dinner. Most Christians have felt like its all crashed and burned at some point in the past. Rather than remaining on the sidelines we need to keep getting back to our mission.

6. There is no finish line. All the contestants affirmed that their experience was a step in a journey that they intended to continue. How refreshing to listen to the winner Julie be interviewed and state that before she could open a restaurant she needed to learn how to run a commercial kitchen and a business. As Christians we never 'arrive' in this life. We are committed to a life long pursuit of growth, learning and maturing. Perfection is for the life beyond this one.

7. There's a time for personal flair and a time to follow the recipe. The church should nurture their young thoroughly in God's Word so that when they want to express their unique giftings they will do so informed by the principles of eternal truth.

So, we need to be certain that we all know and share a sense of mission as a local church. Our mission at MGPC is this: Glorifying God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, by growing His family through Biblical teaching, prayer and loving relationships, locally, nationally and internationally.

Loved Forevermore *continued from page 1...*

Christ loved sinners even while we hated him. Fully realizing this will pave the way for us to love others unconditionally as well. We realize and experience this liberating truth: "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers" (1 John 3:16). This kind of lay-down-your-life love is the clearest indicator of a gospel-centered life.

But laying down your life for others is impossible. It's too scary—unless you know you've been eternally loved by Christ. Then you're free to give your life to others, because you've received so much yourself.

Do you realize how radically different this world would be if that was the rule instead of the exception in all our relationships? The most powerful way we can join God on his mission to bring heaven to earth—to warm this place up, and renew and redeem and fix this broken planet—is by applying the gospel in this way, in all our relationships.



Tullian Tchividjian, is senior Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.



The Samaritan's Purse
Children's Christmas boxes
are due

Sunday 13th September

Please contact any Care &
Concern member with any
queries.

Financial Update & Board News

Income - June: \$12,003.94

Includes:

Allison St per week: \$2,117.85
(budget -\$1,960.00)

Allendale: \$180.00 (\$416.00)

Nelson: \$ 155.10 (\$250.00)

Literature sales: \$543.00

Expenditure - June: \$14,130.36

Includes:

Pastors' remuneration & superannuation \$7,863.60

Speaker system \$1,645.00

PIM 2009 allocation \$1,000.00

Creation Research \$500.00

Allison St utilities \$839.85

Pitt Bequest expenses \$1,495.45

- Board of Management election results are – re-elected: Pat Hamilton, Diana Hughes; newly elected: Barry McBride, Viv Peate. Congratulations to all four members and may the Lord strengthen you to serve well.
- Thanks to everyone who helped with the working bee on 4th July;
- The purchase of a portable P.A. system from Philtronics was authorized at a cost of \$1,645.00;
- The cypress trees on the Allendale church property have been removed and burned at a cost of \$7,300.00. The three boundary fences are also to be replaced. Proposals for costing, etc are being investigated.



For Your Diary

Sunday 13th September

A lunch and introduction to our Vision and Mission Statements, Growth Groups and the plan to move vision to action. Open to all IDEA Group and Board of Management members.

Sunday 27th September

A lunch and presentation of our Vision and Mission Statements, followed by the opportunity to present your ideas on how we can realise our Vision. Open to ministry and congregational groups and the church as a whole.



Before the Throne of God Above

Please pray for:
James Davidson;
Noel Cusack; Jim
Stafford; Pearl Hel-

lyer, Hannah Thompson, Frank Mitchell, Fred Nash, Margaret Ware, Ken Wright; Ina Earl; Mary Jeffrey; Brian & Betty Clayfield; Albert & Perle Harvey, Gladys Jones, Elaine Harfull, Jayne Pritchard, Vi Fraser, Blake Vause, Emmie Thompson .

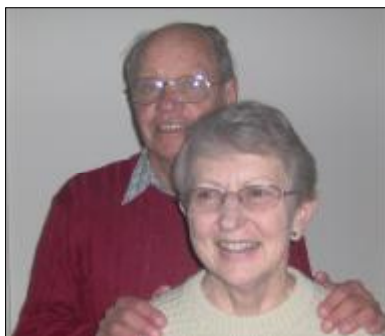
Continue to uphold our church mission partners:

- Matthew, serving in west Asia.
- Cameron & Carmel Mackenzie, Flynn Patrol (SA), Presbyterian Inland Mission.
- School Christian Pastoral Support

Workers: especially Matt Eudy (Yahl Primary School).

- Mission Partners/APWM national office: Bill & Jenny Lutton.
- Also intercede for:
- State Government: Premier Mike Rann; Leader of the Opposition Isabel Redman.
 - Patrick Secker MHR (Member for Barker).
 - Rory McEwen MLA (Member for Mount Gambier).
 - Converge International chaplains: Heather Baker, John Deer and Ian Touzel.
 - Mount Gambier Anglican Church (Rev Brian and Anne Ashworth).

Welcome New Members!



Barry and Glenys McBride

Prior to retiring to Mount Gambier in 2008, Barry and Glenys lived in Adelaide where they were active members of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Adelaide. Barry served Holy Trinity in various leadership capacities for over 20 years. As well Barry was Treasurer of both the South Australian branch of Church Missionary Society (CMS) CMS and Scripture Union. While Glenys has been involved with a number of ministries including CWCI, Bible College of SA, and Interserve. Before marrying Barry and having two children, Glenys was a missionary with for four years in Pakistan. In their vocations Barry worked in accountancy and as an administration manager; Glenys as a human resources co-ordinator. They have settle well and are very happy to be here.



Herm and Lammy Zandman

While in the Netherlands Herm worked as a Physical Education teacher and Lammy as a swimming instructor. After getting married the Lord blessed them with a son Ruben and daughter Esther. They emigrated to New Zealand in 1981 where they joined the Reformed Churches of New Zealand. After settling down, doing a variety of jobs, both got involved in leading and setting up Christian schools, ranging from primary to teachers college. They continued their studies in relation to Christian service, Lammy obtaining a B.Ed and Herm a B.A, M.Ed and PhD in Ethics. They were invited to come to Canberra for some more pioneering work in Christian education. In order to be closer to the children they moved to Mount Gambier at the end of 2008 where they joined MGPC.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 7pm Youth Group
2 Biblical Training IDEA group meets NE,AL - R. Bannister	3 7.30pm Board of Management	4 9am Women's Bible Study	5 10am Coffee & Craft	6 1pm PWA	7 10.30am Bible Study	8 7pm Youth Group
9 10am Lord's Sup- per	10	11 9am Women's Bible Study 1.30pm Care & Concern	12 10am Coffee & Craft	13	14 10.30am Bible Study	15 7pm Youth Group
16 NE, AL - I. Touzel 12pm Music ministry training	17	18 9am Women's Bible Study	19 10am Coffee & Craft 7.30pm Ladies Fel- lowship	20	21 10.30am Bible Study	22 7.30am Men's Breakfast 7pm Youth Group
23	24 7.30pm Session	25 9am Women's Bible Study 1.30pm Pleasant Tuesday Afternoon	26 10am Coffee & Craft	27	28 10.30am Bible Study	29 7.30pm Church Dance
30 Bring & Share lunch 6.30pm Citywide service	31					

Book of the Month

Freedom and Boundaries | Kevin DeYoung

While it is not considered a salvation issue, the question of women's roles is an important one for a local church to answer. Strong opinions exist on both sides of this issue; therefore, it is imperative that pastors and elders be prepared with an answer as to their church's policy regarding women's roles. In *Freedom and Boundaries: A Pastoral Primer on the Role of Women in the Church*, Kevin DeYoung, a convinced complementarian [men and women are equal in worth but have different roles, Ed.] , offers pastors, elders, and laypeople an explanation of the issue, why it's important to come to a resolution, a biblical analysis for the complementarian position, and the dangerous slippery slope of adopting an egalitarian position.

DeYoung writes,

I have a very specific audience in mind in writing this book: my congregation and others like it. Our church has a book table around the corner from the fellowship hall. I have often wished for a book there that explained the Bible's teaching about men and

women in the church in a way that the interested layperson could understand and in a size that one could read in a few hours. I have wished for a book that would argue its case without being argumentative; a book I could give to other pastors wrestling with this issue, and a book pastors could give to their elders, deacons, and trustees that they would actually read; a book that displayed exegetical integrity with minimal jargon; a book weightier than a pamphlet, but lighter than a door stop. I'm not sure I've written such a book, but this is the book I set out to write.

DeYoung begins with an explanation for why he believes another book on the complementarian/egalitarian issue is necessary. Before the chapters specific to the issue, he offers a chapter on the authority of the Bible and how to interpret it rightly. Then, he covers the relevant scriptures: Genesis 1-3; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, 14:26-40; 1 Timothy 2:8-15, 3:1-13; and what we can learn from Jesus in the Gospels. In chapter 9, he

addresses the eight most common objections the complementarian position. I appreciated this chapter the most as he spoke directly to those objections that I've wondered about myself. DeYoung is adamant that "it is unwise and impractical for churches to limp between two opinions on this subject." While that is true, he admits that "there is no one-size fits all model when it comes to sorting through the strange mix of biblical texts, people's feelings, and theological fidelity." To encourage pastors and church leaders, he offers the pastoral process he used to address this issue in his church.

This book includes three appendices and endnotes. Appendix 1 is a sermon from Ephesians 5:22-33. Appendix 2 is entitled, "The Slippery Slope from Egalitarianism to Homosexuality," and was quite an eye-opener for me. Finally, Appendix 3 is The Danvers Statement from The Council of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. For those who desire a more in-depth understanding of complemen-

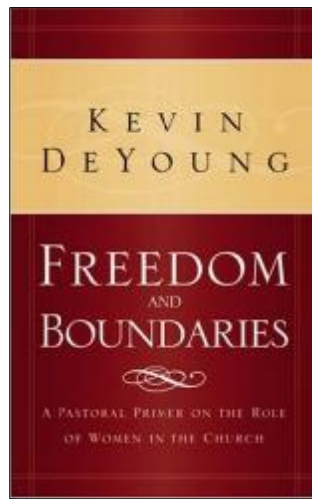
tarianism and egalitarianism, DeYoung offers a list of the best books on each position.

DeYoung has accomplished his stated goal (quoted above). *Freedom and Boundaries* is easy to read and understand; I read it in just a few hours. He is not argumentative nor arrogant. Rather, he is humble. Most evident in his writing are his desire to see God glorified and his love for God's people. This is an enjoyable book, humorous in one or two places, hard-hitting where it needs to be, and faithful to the scriptures. I think it is a church library must-have and will be a great help to many pastors and laypersons who may be hesitant to address this issue in their churches.

— Tim Challies

at <http://www.discerningreader.com/book-reviews/freedom-and-boundaries>

Available from www.amazon.com for US\$10.87 plus international postage.

**Church Directory****Pastor:**

Rev. Gary Ware,
4 Rosemary Ave.
Mount Gambier SA 5290.

Ph. 8725 0228

Mob. 0417716865

Email: giware@internode.on.net

Assistant Pastor

Ian Touzel,
53 Vivienne Ave
Mount Gambier SA 5290.

Tel: 8723 9317

Email: ihtouzel@bigpond.com

Session Clerk:

Alan Fox,
52 Cardinia St.
Mount Gambier SA 5290.

Tel: 8724 9629

Fax: 8723 2416

Email: fafox@hotmail.net.au

Secretary, Board of Management:

Jeroen Zwijnenburg

CPA Moorak

Moorak SA 5290.

Tel: 8724 9230

Email: jzwijnenburg@bigpond.com

Church Office

Hours:

Monday: 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Thursday: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm;

Friday 11.00 am – 12.30 pm &

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm.

PO Box 270

Mount Gambier SA 5290.

Tel/Fax. 8723 9028

Mob 0427 239 028

Email: office@mgpc.org.au

Website: www.mgpc.org.au

ConneXions Editor:

Ian Touzel

Editorial deadline: 3rd Sunday of the preceding month.

This Church seeks to comply with the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000 at all times. A copy of the Church's Privacy Policy is available on request. If you do not wish to consent to being identified in this or any other Church publication please advise the church office accordingly.

Sunday Services

Mount Gambier, Allison St.

10am—including Sunday School and crèche during school term.

5:30pm—Evening worship

1st and 3rd Sundays:

9:30am (EST)—Nelson

11am —Allendale

5th Sunday

10am—Family Service at Mount Gambier



Mission News local | national | international

MACKENZIE NEWS

**Presbyterian Inland Mission,
Flynn Patrol**

Greetings to our dear friends and family,

Carmel and Jacinta have been able to work with Cameron full-time over the last 3 months. Jacinta says "Amen" at the end of praying with our contacts which blows most of them away. But it allows them to see that prayer is an important part of our Christianity!

APRIL: Barrier Hwy and Coober Pedy Patrol

We helped out a lady for two days: we fixed a trough, and while checking waters, a deserted calf jumped up so we swung into action to catch it. The dog knocked it up with me grabbing the tail and lifting it on to the back of the ute. The next day we mustered cattle so we could mother the calf up. We utilised the motorbike as enticing the cows into the yard with hay failed. On leaving the property we drove in convoy to assist in packing up her set of portable sheep-yards, on finishing the job, Carmel say's .why not have a cuppa., so we got to show some hospitality for a change!

- We met up with another Christian family for the first time which was great.
- One person has cancer whom we spent time with and then prayed for.
- We attended the Marla Bronco Branding and caught up with some more contacts we missed while patrolling.
- We observed and assisted 3 kids in their classroom and also did a devotion and prayer with them.

We were thrilled to have our old minister and his wife from Sydney (Neil and Carmen Ellis) stay with us. It was a well timed and encouraging visit!

MAY: Two Gymkhanas and PCSA Assembly

We extended an invitation to our church, at Para Hills, to one of the gymkhana events. We were overjoyed to see the response of

the church, with 7 families coming out to the Yunta Gymkhana, and 1 family coming to the Nonning Gymkhana. *A big thank you to those of our congregation who supported us in coming along for the weekend. We greatly appreciated the effort and were uplifted in our ministry with PIM. Thank you also to Ted McGucken who provided equipment for both weekends. Cameron helped the Yunta folk with cleaning up. One guy said to him: "I can see you have used a shovel before!" When people see you work they respect you more! Adrian Carswell and Damien Roy helped Cameron run the hobby horse races (below).*



After a long day at the gymkhana, we all shared dinner together and sat around the campfire that night socialising whilst playing games.

On Sunday, Cameron ran a church service in the Yunta Hall. He had his rent-a-crowd from Para Hills with him and praise God, 5 Locals turned up for the service. We all had a good sing-along lead by Damien Roy, we prayed and then Cameron spoke on Colossians 1:26-27, the Mystery of Christ - namely, that all people can be saved through Christ!

The Nonning Gymkhana was also a worthwhile event, allowing us to catch up with many contacts. We had an enjoyable time with the Johansen family from our congregation. They had all of God's blessings over the weekend: wind dust and rain! We had a fun filled weekend of camping and gymkhana experience. The weekend is full of many different activities. We

envisage talking to the Nonning Gymkhana committee in 2010 re running a Church service prior to the breakfast on the Sunday morning!

The last thing we went to this month was the Assembly at Port Augusta. It was very good to have fellowship with the Presbyterians in South Australia.

JUNE

We had a week's break at Manilla, NSW (with Carmel's family) which was a lovely time of R&R and family bonding.

On returning to Adelaide, we packed again and headed out on the Innamincka/Birdsville patrol. It was a valuable time of continued relationship building. We were encouraged to do a church service at one of the stations on our next visit. We also had the opportunity to stay and help out practically at a station where Cam helped a guy make gates all day.

We are looking forward to Cameron's parents and niece visiting us in July. Thank you again for your continued love, support and prayers.

Peace and Grace

Cameron, Carmel & Jacinta Mackenzie

Peace and Grace

Cameron, Carmel & Jacinta Mackenzie

Prayer and Praise points:

- Give thanks for all of the different opportunities God has been presenting to us.
- Give thanks for Para Hills congregation and the blessed weekends away we had of witness and support in the outback
- Praise God for the rain that has fallen in parts of outback SA
- Pray for Cameron as he conducts the Gawler Ranges Patrol in July
- Pray for the lady with cancer and wisdom for us in future visits with her

Time Well Spent | R.C. Sproul

Time is the great leveler. It is one resource that is allocated in absolute egalitarian terms. Every living person has the same number of hours to use in every day. Busy people are not given a special bonus added on to the hours of the day. The clock plays no favorites.

We all have an equal measure of time in every day. Where we differ from one another is in how we redeem the time allotted. When something is redeemed it is rescued or purchased from some negative condition. The basic negative condition we are concerned with is the condition of waste. To waste time is to spend it on that which has little or no value.

I am a time waster. When I think of the time I have wasted over the course of my life, I am hounded by remorse. This guilt is not a false one fostered by an overactive work ethic. The guilt is real because the time I have wasted is real time.

The late Vince Lombardi introduced the adage, "I never lost a game, I just ran out of time." This explanation points to one of the most dramatic elements of sports—the race against the clock. The team that is most productive in the allotted time is the team that wins the game. Of course, in sports, unlike life, there are provisions for calling time-out. The clock in a sports contest can be temporarily halted. But in real life there are no timeouts...

Given my propensity to waste time, I have learned a few tricks to help me beat the clock. They may be helpful to some of you.

First, *I realize that all of my time is God's time and all of my time is my time by His delegation.* God owns me and my time. Yet, He has given me a measure of time over which I am a steward. I can commit that time to work for other people, visit other people, etc. But it is time for which I must give an account.

Second, *time can be redeemed by*

concentration and focus. One of the greatest wastes of time occurs in the human mind. Our hands may be busy but our minds idle. Likewise, our hands may be idle while our minds are busy. Woolgathering, day-dreaming, and indulging in frivolous fantasy are ways in which thoughts may be wasted in real time. To focus our minds on the task at hand—with fierce concentration—makes for productive use of time.

Third, *the mind can redeem valuable time taken up by ordinary or mechanical functions.* For example, the mechanics of taking a shower are not difficult. In this setting the mind is free for problem solving, creative thinking,

Given my propensity to waste time, I have learned a few tricks to help me beat the clock. They may be helpful to some of you.

or the composition of themes. Many of my messages and lectures are germinated in the shower. When I used to play a lot of golf, I found that the time I had between shots was a great time for composing messages in my mind.

Fourth, *use your leisure time for pursuits that are life enriching.* Leisure time is often spent on avocations. Reading is a valuable use of time. It enriches life to read outside of your major field or area of expertise. Augustine once advised believers to learn as much as possible about as many things as possible, since all truth is God's truth. Other avocations that are enriching include the arts. I like to study the piano and I dabble in painting. No one will ever mistake me for a serious musician or an accomplished artist. But these avocations open up the world of beauty to me that enhances my view of God and His mani-

fold perfections. I also enjoy working cross-word puzzles to warm up the little gray cells and to expand my vista of verbal expression.

Fifth, *find ways to cheat the "Sand Man."* Several years ago I had an epiphany about time management. Though my life-long pattern had been to stay up late at night I realized that for me, the hours between 9–12 p.m. were not very productive. I reasoned that if I used those hours to sleep I might secure more time for more productive things. Since then my habit has been to retire between 8–9 p.m. when possible and rise at 4 a.m. This has effected a wonderful revolution for my schedule. The early hours of the day are a time free from distractions and interruptions, a marvelous time for study, writing, and prayer...

Sixth, *use drive-time for learning.* Driving a car is another mechanical function that allows the mind to be alert to more than what is happening on the roadway. The benefits of audio tape can be put to great use during these times. I can listen to lectures and instructional tapes while driving, thereby redeeming the time.

Finally, *in most cases a schedule is more liberating than restricting.* Working with a schedule helps enormously to organize our use of time. The schedule should be a friend, not an enemy. I find it freeing in that the schedule can include time for leisure, recreation, and avocation. It helps us find the rhythm for a God-glorifying productive life.



Dr R.C. Sproul is the founder and chairman of Ligonier Ministries. Currently he is Senior Minister of

Preaching and Teaching at Saint Andrews Chapel in Sanford, Florida, USA. The above is an extract from an article published in *Tabletalk* magazine (September 1997, pp. 4–7)

The Gospel | Jay Adams

Say what you please, it all boils down to one thing.

“What’s that?”

The fact that some of us are tired of hearing weak, feeble presentations of the gospel that sometimes come even from those we respect in other ways.

“Such as?”

Such as ‘Take Jesus into your heart.’ Show me anything comparable to that in Scripture!

“OK. What else?”

‘Let me share Jesus with you.’ Or the bare, ‘Trust Jesus as your Savior’ and the lot. Many of them present Jesus as an add-on Who merely makes life more pleasant.

“Well . . . ”

No ‘Wells’ about it—that’s not preaching the gospel.

“OK, then, how do you preach it?”

The way that Paul did. Listen to his words in I Corinthians 15: 1-3:

This is the good news that I preached to you by which you were saved. . . How that Christ died for our sins in agreement with the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third

day in agreement with the Scriptures.

When he told them that this was the good news he preached, here is what his message was:

1. Good news. News has to do with something already accomplished. So, the preacher of the Gospel is a reporter. He is not asking people to do something to be saved, but to believe in two events that have already occurred. What needed to be done had already been accomplished before Paul began to preach.
2. But, notice, Paul sets forth the fact that Jesus died for our sins. That means there is bad news over against which the good news is brought. The bad news is that apart from salvation from it, people are headed toward eternal punishment for their sins.
3. The first of the two events, which are the very essence of the gospel, is that the preacher reports that Christ died for the sins of His people. That’s good news because it means He took the punishment due them for their iniquities, so that their sins could be forgiven and they could go to heaven.
4. The second of those two essential events is that, though dead and bur-

ied, Jesus rose from the dead. In this way, we have a living Savior to Whose sacrifice of Himself God gave approval by raising Him from the dead. A “Savior” on the cross alone has not defeated death, and is no Savior.

In addition, Paul declares that both of these factual events were predicted in the Old Testament, so that we have the added assurance that the gospel is really the good news that it purports to be, since it fulfilled prophecy to the full.

If you are presenting the Gospel, you call on acknowledged, repentant, sinners to receive the finished work of Christ by faith. Faith doesn’t save, but it is the means by which one is able to appropriate the message of salvation reported in the Gospel.



Jay Adams, an Presbyterian pastor in the USA, for over 40 years has been calling God’s people back from their dalliance with unbiblical psychological theory to a renewed confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit and the sufficiency of God’s Word to help his people with problems of living and relationship. Read his blog at: <http://www.nouthetic.org/blog/>



Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) was pastor of the 5,000+ member Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, UK.

Take God’s Promises At Their Maximum

| Charles Spurgeon

Make a point, whenever you receive a promise from God, to get all you can out of it. If you carry out that rule, it is wonderful what you will gain.

Some go on the principle of getting as little as possible out of God’s word. Such a plan may be wise with a man’s word, but God’s word is to be understood at the maximum, for he will do exceedingly abundantly above what you ask or even think.

Charles Spurgeon, *Christ’s Glorious Achievements* (Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus 2003), page 59