

The Patio Pulpit For April 21, 2021 “The Good News Extravaganza”

I do like to keep up with current events like the verdict just handed down in the case of the former police officer charged with the murder of George Floyd. I keep up with the news about China and Russia and Afghanistan and the 20-year war over there. I stay up to date with the shenanigans going on even as we speak in our nation’s capitol. But anyone can keep up with all that news by watching television news. And I do use current events in my sermons when they are relevant to my sermon topic.

But how many people keep up with the good news we can access in the Bible? Not many at all based on recent surveys by people who survey such stuff. This is from Christianity Today, “We’ve released new research as part of the Transformational Discipleship study that shows only 19% of churchgoers personally (not as part of a church worship service) read the Bible every day. That is roughly the same as those who responded “Rarely/Never” (18 percent).” And what does God say about such people who profess a relationship with Him? ⁶ *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. (Hos. 4:6 NAU)*

¹³ *Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge; And their honorable men are famished, And their multitude is parched with thirst. (Isa. 5:13 NAU)*

And what is the solution for such a life-threatening ailment? ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col. 3:16 NAU)*

¹⁸ *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,*

¹⁹ *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;*

²⁰ *always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; (Eph. 5:18-20 NAU)*

And, being part of a fellowship or assembly of those who are in Christ where the word of God is faithfully preached and taught. ²⁴ *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

²⁶ *For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,*

²⁷ *but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. (Heb. 10:24-27 NAU)*

Isn't it amazing and maybe even shocking how much weight God puts on our assembling together as believers? People who profess faith in Jesus Christ who never go to church should be ashamed of themselves and immediately repent and return to the house of God in hopes that God will bring them to a true saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. ²⁴ *The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,*

²⁵ *with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

(2 Tim. 2:24-26 NAU).

Never assembling with the saints is a sure indicator that one is not saved or redeemed or justified or sanctified. And on the day that the author of Hebrews refers to, "all the more as you see **the day** drawing near," judgment is going to be final and eternal.

Now what?

³⁷ *Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"*

³⁸ Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ because of the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:37-42 NAU).

For those of you watching this video and wondering where the good news extravaganza is, you have just heard it. All the above is part and parcel with the gospel. And there is more.

In order for the good news to be seen as good news, one must also know the bad news, and **it is always law first, then the gospel.** Why would anyone come to be saved when he doesn't know he needs to be saved and why he needs to be saved? ²⁴ *Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.* (Gal. 3:24 NAU) Law, then gospel.

⁷ *What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."* (Rom. 7:7 NAU) Law, then gospel.

And here is my point, ⁵ *Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?* (2 Cor. 13:5 NAU) And just how can one know if one has failed the test of being saved? Does your supposed profession of faith line up with the word of God? Do you on a regular basis assemble with other believers?

When you heard the gospel of Christ preached or someone shared it with you one-on-one, did you genuinely repent and submit to water baptism? Do you sincerely confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, literally and bodily? And even now after hearing those words, are you still trying to pull the wool over God's eyes?

²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

²⁹ How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

³⁰ For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."

³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb. 10:28-31 NAU)

That is not where you want to fall, is it?

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And if you are wondering where is the so-called “good news extravaganza?” That is it. The gospel is good news precisely because there is bad news and the bad news is incredibly bad while the good news is unbelievably good.

See you this coming Sunday when we assemble ourselves together in accordance with the clear command found in the word of God.