

Gospel Reflections | January 2012

1-1-12

"Every New Year's, many of us make goals and resolutions to become better people. We join gyms, create budgets and quit habits, thinking we can white-knuckle our way to a more fulfilled life. Within the church, we often Christianize these resolutions by doing things like joining prayer groups or starting Bible-reading plans. Although all of these are beneficial, God does not simply want to make us better, He wants to make us new. As the apostle Paul wrote, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17). This New Year's, rather than looking forward to the ways you can make your life better, look to the cross and remember Jesus has already made you perfect. As we fix our eyes on Him, we will find ourselves walking in newness of life--something much greater than rock-hard abs and organized closets."

-Curt Devine

1-8-12

"Clarity on the gospel of grace. There are many counterfeits, not least distortions of the gospel that make sin something you need to work off or blow off. Listen carefully for the comfort and the call of the gospel. First and foremost, listen for Jesus saying, "I do not condemn you." But keep listening for "Go and sin no more." The order is very important. The removal of condemnation comes before the call to obedience. But both need to be there for the church to preach the gospel." -R.W.

Glenn

1-15-12

"Getting the gospel right is crucial. It is a matter of spiritual life and death. If you miss this, it does not matter what you get because you will miss God. Paul understands this and therefore strongly refutes the false teaching of those who have begun to undermine the Galatians' confidence in the simple gospel that he had preached to them. That message is all about the finished work of Jesus Christ "who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father" (Gal. 1:4).

On the one hand, the worst of people are genuine candidates for salvation because the only way that God saves is by grace. On the other hand, if the most respectable people are to be saved, it will not be because of any goodness in them but, again, only by the grace of God.” –Tom Ascol

1-22-12

"How different will be the state of the believer in heaven from what it is here! Here he is born to toil and suffer weariness, but in the land of the immortal, fatigue is never known. Anxious to serve his Master, he finds his strength unequal to his zeal: his constant cry is, "Help me to serve Thee, O my God." If he be thoroughly active, he will have much labour; not too much for his will, but more than enough for his power, so that he will cry out, "I am not wearied of the labour, but I am wearied in it." Ah! Christian, the hot day of weariness lasts not for ever; the sun is nearing the horizon; it shall rise again with a brighter day than thou hast ever seen upon a land where they serve God day and night, and yet rest from their labours. Here, rest is but partial, there, it is perfect."
-Charles Spurgeon

1-29-12

“We have seen that the gospel is the way that anything is renewed and transformed by Christ--whether a heart, a relationship, a church, or a community. It is the key to all doctrine and our view of our lives in this world. Therefore, all our problems come from a lack of orientation to the gospel. Put positively, the gospel transforms our hearts and thinking and approaches to absolutely everything.”-Tim Keller