

Gospel Reflections | August 2012

8-5-12

God calls us to wait restlessly for Jesus with a patient assurance founded upon his promises: "But according to his promises we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). Eschatology gives us resources for understanding and addressing the brokenness we experience in this imperfect world as we wait for Jesus. It also reminds us of the great victory Christ has already achieved and the final victory he promises. Eschatology matters for all of life.

8-19-12

So it's no surprise when God calls his followers to demonstrate hospitality. For instance, when the Lord was giving Israel instructions in Exodus 20 and Leviticus 19 on how to treat strangers and outsiders, he said to love them and "treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you." Why? Not because the foreigners were created in God's image (though they were). He says, "For you were strangers in the land of Egypt," and "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." Suddenly, the grounding for love and hospitality shifted---not only, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," but also, "Do unto others as the Lord has done unto you."-John Starke

8-26-12

"At the point when we stop reading God's commands with a long sigh and a heavy heart, and instead start reading them as an invitation to the greatest life possible that we could never achieve on our own, we have begun to understand that at the very core of God's Being is unadulterated and unchangeable goodness. The real issue we face is not the demands we receive from the Master, but whether or not we are willing to believe that the God of the gospel is truly as good as he promises to be."-Anonymous