

Gospel Root System

Buster Brown, March 11, 2018

"Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all."

Colossians 3:9-11

As the believer is continuously renewed by the gospel all distinctions of race, religion, culture, and economics fade into the background.

1. To maintain the wonder of the work of Christ I must be continuously renewed in my thinking (and emotions).

"We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin."

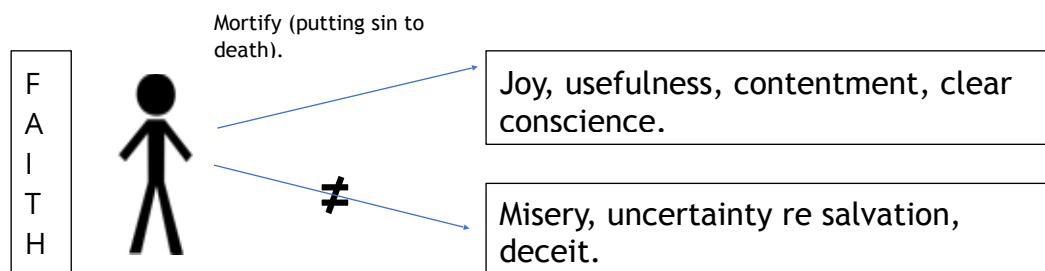
Romans 6:6

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."

2 Corinthians 4:16



2. My calling as a disciple of Christ is my primary identity (which obliterates all others).
3. The reality of the forgiveness of sin by the cross gives inherent/imputed DIGNITY to all believers.

"Our weak batteries can be recharged by a jump cable that reconnects believers to the divine current held in store for us by our supernatural Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer. We rely too much on our own finite power and world energy; we are dazzled by technology more than by theology and morality. To gain God's empowerment for mission we must first acknowledge our vulnerabilities and our spiritual immaturity. Beyond our lifetime, if Christ tarries, others will run the relay and carry the torch. For us, in the rocky terrain of the present-day cultural conflict, the time is now, and the race is now."

"Gods of This Age or God of the Ages," Carl F.H. Henry, pg. 43

"The race (of faith and faithful scholarship) requires what the author of Hebrews calls throwing off hindrances and running with perseverance. But most of all it requires keeping the prize always in view:

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." For Christian life, including Christian academic life, to press on without growing weary and not losing heart, the scriptural injunction is simply to "consider him" (Heb. 12:2-3). And so for scholarship that is Christian the essential ingredients are the same as for family life, politics, community service, economic activity, medical care, or any other activity that would be Christian. Those ingredients are prayer that returns to the source of forgiveness and hope, service that goes into the world in Christ's name, Bible reading or preaching or catechesis that rehearses the story of salvation, sacraments that instantiate the presence of Christ, fellowship that draws believers to each other and to their Lord, singing that inspires love of God and neighbor, sympathy that turns hearts toward the suffering, and meditation that draws the mind to God." Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind, Mark A. Noll, pg. 148

Questions for discussion:

1. Why are we "leaky buckets"?
2. How are we continuously renewed in our faith? How does this renewal maintain the wonder of the gospel?
3. What are some distinctions which the gospel overcomes/obliterates?
4. How does the gospel give dignity to all believers?
5. What are some "outside the comfort zone" applications that should be explored?

Building a Christian world and life view:

Podcast for "The Briefing," -Al Mohler

<https://albertmohler.com/category/podcast/the-briefing/>

Podcast for Ravi Zachariah's Ministries

<http://rzim.org/just-thinking-broadcasts/>

The Mortification of Spin

<http://www.alliancenet.org/mos/podcast>

Gospel Coalition

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org>

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