

Volume 5, Day 20: Communicating the Gospel of God

Our calling is not primarily to be men and women living out the love of Jesus (loving all others without any conditions on their behavior or attitudes), but to be proclaimers of the Gospel of God. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God – the Gospel. The Gospel of God is about a sweet, loving awareness of the presence of God within. The evidence of our salvation is not human goodness, nor holiness, nor heaven, nor hell. It is our true affection for God because of our redemption from the penalty of sin. When we commit sin, our response should always be giving thanks for the forgiveness that has already been applied. It is this forgiveness which we receive which enables us to forgive all others. Redemption is the only Reality. If we place our faith in human goodness (the effect of Redemption) we will sin more, not less. **Personal holiness is an effect, not a cause.**

Paul did not say he separated himself, but - "when it pleased God who separated me ...". Paul had no interest in his own character. As long as we are focused on our personal righteous expressions, we can't experience the reality of Redemption. We get exhausted when we try to live righteously rather than abandoned to God for His use. When I strive to behave well and force other to do so, all I want is anything God can do **for** me to improve **my** reputation with people. Living like this is proof that the Gospel of God has not begun to touch me; there is no reckless abandon to God. God cannot use me while my interest is merely in my own character. Paul is unconscious of himself. He is recklessly abandoned, separated by God for one purpose - to proclaim the Gospel of God (cf. Rom. 9:3). The Gospel is not about 'self' righteousness. It is about the righteousness of God which I received by grace through faith in Jesus not of works.

Beware of thinking that the acts of kindness of the love of God are a silent witness of the Gospel. The Gospel must be expressed in words. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." -- Confirming Scriptures - Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan