



Small Group Discussion

PART IV Restoration October 29-30, 2011

Getting Started:

We have been talking about developing a biblical world-view. Review the Big Idea from this weekend...

A world-view is your perspective on how life works and why things work the way that they do. Restoration is the missing ingredient as most of us understand the “Gospel” and “Salvation” (hence most of us don’t have a biblical worldview), which is a pity because restoration is not only what you have been made and saved for...it’s also the most fun!

What was the content of the Gospel that you heard when you became a Christian? Did you hear the Gospel from someone in a Church, through media or from a friend?

READ: John 10:10 “The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (NLT)

What area have you seen a rich and satisfying life since Christ became the leader of your life? What area still needs transforming?

Jesus’ main purpose was the salvation (health) of the sheep, which he defined as free access to pasture and fullness of life. Under his protection and by his gift they can experience the best life can offer. In the context of John’s emphasis on eternal life, this statement takes on new significance. Jesus can give a whole new meaning to living because he provides full satisfaction and perfect guidance (cf. Ezek 34:15).¹

The Missing Ingredient of the Gospel

While our understanding of what we’ll doing in heaven is usually less than motivating, the typical Church’s understanding of the Gospel ends with salvation and begins again after death. The missing Gospel is what comes in between.

READ Luke 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come. (NLT)

¹ Frank E. Gaebelien, Merrill C. Tenney and Richard N. Longenecker, *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Volume 9: John and Acts*, 109 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981).

Small Group Discussion

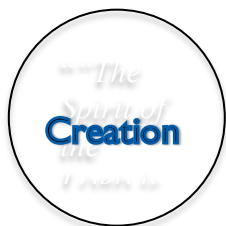
Jesus read the text scheduled for reading in the Synagogue for that day. The tradition was that the reader for that day would read the text for the day and then sit to teach on its meaning followed by a question & answer time over that meaning. Jesus told them that this prophesy from Isa. 61:1-2 concerning Israel's promised Messiah was fulfilled in front of them.

Note each phrase concerning the work of Messiah & define how that might look in our world today:

- Good News to the poor – **What would be good news to someone who cannot feed himself or his family?**
- Release of the captives – **What kind of situations do you know about locally or internationally where people are “owned” by others who abuse them?**
- Sight for the blind – **What kind of health problems exist that could be treated but for some reason are not?**
- Freedom for the oppressed – **What are some examples of oppression that you are aware of?**
- God's time of favor was on them – **When people are being oppressed they are not interested in someone with an entertaining message, but in someone who can change their oppression. What are some examples of Jesus fulfilling these promises in His ministry?**

The Four Circles of the Gospel

Vern illustrated the full message of the Gospel with four circles. Review these with your group:



God created for Relationships – World, Others & God



Sin=Independence from God & others.
Result – fear-flee-broken



God loves the broken World & sent Jesus to redeem *all things!*
Colossians 1:19-20



Starts immediately Restore Creation/ Relationships/ Politics/Business

READ: Ephesians 2:8-10

What is the purpose of God's Redemption in you according to 2:10?

Small Group Discussion

Salvation begins with redeeming and bringing life to the individual, who are called as the Church to transfer the life God gives us to the world around us.

What is the greatest area of transformation has God brought into your life?

How could you translate what God has done IN you THROUGH you to the world around you?

Vern gave four categories where He works through us to restore the world:

CREATION

POLITICS

BUSINESS

RELATIONSHIPS

Discuss ways that you can use your story of transformation to bring transformation to your world.

Last weekend you were asked to fill in on the footprint a way you will bring restoration to the world you live in. What will be your “footprint” that marks God’s Kingdom coming into your world?

