

The Gospel Changes Everything

Philippians 3:17-21



Scripture

¹⁷Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Main Idea

The “Gospel Changes Everything” is the central value of Harbor Church. In fact, the power of the gospel to change everything is the central message of the bible. The bible tells the story of the world’s creation, its fall into sin by humanity’s rebellion and its redemption through Jesus. The gospel changes everything because it is God’s power to heal and restore everything in this world to how He meant everything to be. It is the gospel that makes us Christians, that grows us and empowers us to serve. In order to catch a vision for how the gospel changes everything we need to have a ‘big picture’ view of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus.

Discussion

Q1: In our modern world, with satellite tv and the internet, we hear bad news all time. What is your response to the brokenness you hear about in our world everyday? Are you callous, desensitized, burdened? What do you think God’s reaction is to all this brokenness?

Q2: Verse 19 tells us what it means to have a mind set on earthly things: It means answering the core questions of destiny (what story do I live in?), god (Whose authority do I live by?), and glory (Where do I seek glory?) apart from the gospel. Did you find yourself challenged by any of these 3 core questions?

Q3: It was said in the sermon that the cross challenges us to look at ourselves as the problem before we look outside of ourselves. Do you find yourself quick to blame others or other things before looking to yourself?

Q4: A quote from the movie Shawshank Redemption was shared “Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and good things never die.” Why do you think hope never dies in the human heart? How does this hope point us to the gospel?

Q5: This passage is clear that a spiritual and immaterial heaven is not the end destination for Christians but rather a transformed earth. What is your reaction to this? How does it show us that the gospel is much bigger than just “going to heaven when you die”?

Q6: What does it look like to be so “heavenly minded that you are great earthly good” (i.e. a heavenly citizen – verse 20)? Do you have a particular burden for some part/aspect of our broken world? What would that broken piece of our world look like if the power of heaven invaded it?

Prayer

Spend some time sharing needs. Pray for the vision harbor to advance in the years to come: The vision of Harbor is ignite a church planting movement that so fills the City of San Diego with the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the people of the city are changed in every dimension—spiritually, socially and culturally. Pray that God would place a burden on your heart for the city to be changed with an openness to serve him to heal and restore.