



“No one is more influential in your life than you because nobody talks to you as much as you.” – Paul Tripp

“Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? Take those thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up in the morning.



You have not originated them, but they start talking to you, they bring back the problem of yesterday, etc. Somebody is talking. Who is talking to you? Your self is talking to you.”





“The main art in the matter of spiritual living is to know how to handle yourself. You have to take yourself in hand, you have to address yourself, preach to yourself, question yourself.






You must say to your soul: ‘Why art thou cast down’—what business have you to be disquieted? You must turn on yourself, upbraid yourself, exhort yourself, and say to yourself:”

“‘Hope thou in God’—instead of muttering in this depressed, unhappy way. And then you must go on to remind yourself of God, Who God is, and what God is and what God has done, and what God has pledged Himself to do.





Then having done that, end on this great note: defy yourself, and defy other people, and defy the devil and the whole world, and say with this man: ‘I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance, who is also the health of my countenance and my God’.” Martin Lloyd Jones





Fight for the kingdom by
preaching the gospel to yourself

Colossians 2:6-15

Pastor Jeremy Crowe





Vs. 6 Walk in the sufficiency of Jesus who is Lord of all

So, you must preach to yourself that Jesus is sufficient for you in order to drive out all the lies that say He isn't. This is where the battle is every day, all day long.





JESUS SAVES



FROM THE AMERICAN DREAM



Vs. 7 sink your roots down into the all
sufficiency of Jesus



FIGHTING FOR THE KINGDOM

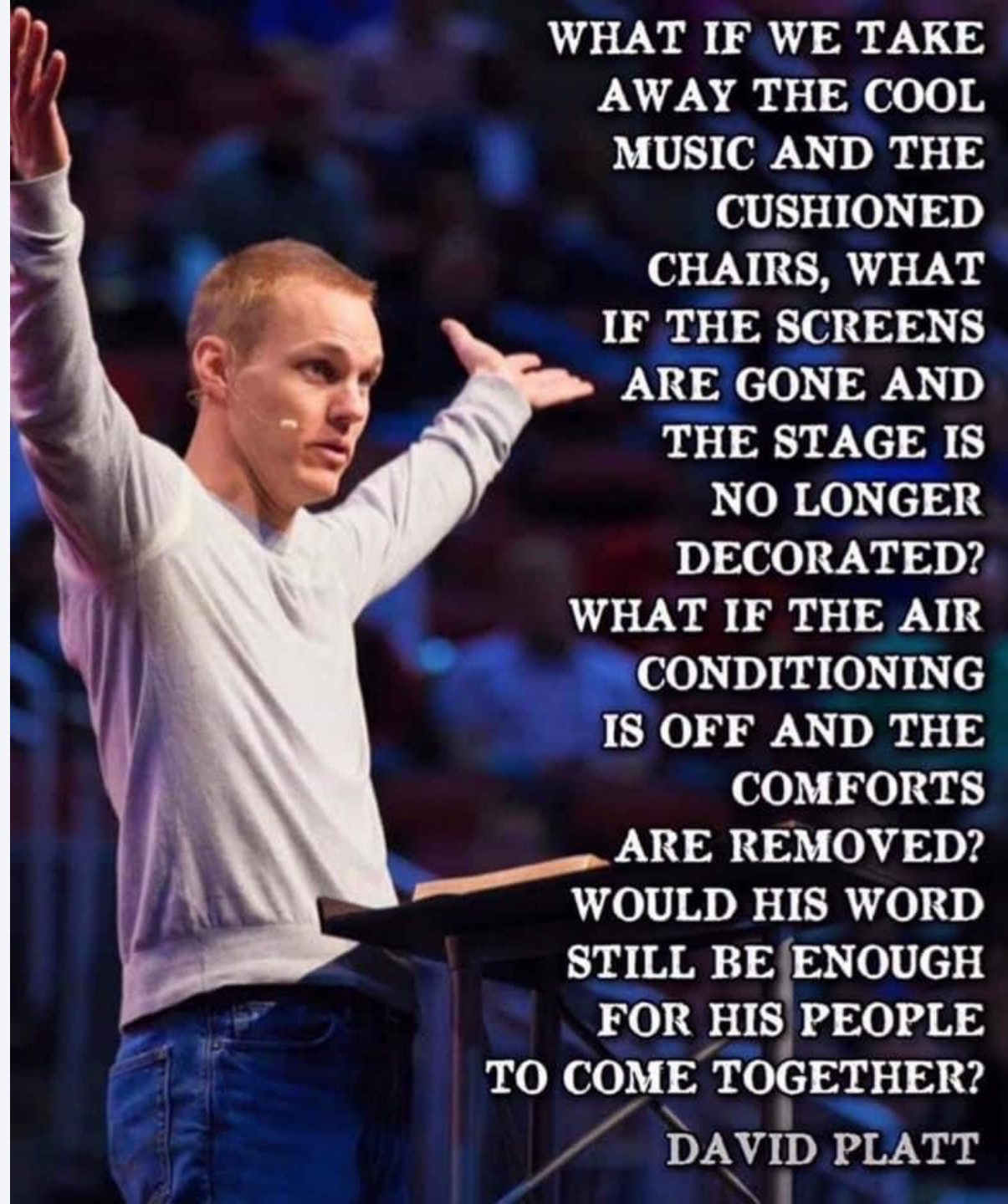




Are we as a church rooted and growing in the sufficiency of Christ?



FIGHTING FOR THE KINGDOM



**WHAT IF WE TAKE
AWAY THE COOL
MUSIC AND THE
CUSHIONED
CHAIRS, WHAT
IF THE SCREENS
ARE GONE AND
THE STAGE IS
NO LONGER
DECORATED?
WHAT IF THE AIR
CONDITIONING
IS OFF AND THE
COMFORTS
ARE REMOVED?
WOULD HIS WORD
STILL BE ENOUGH
FOR HIS PEOPLE
TO COME TOGETHER?**

DAVID PLATT



“Paul frequently employed thankfulness as one of the litmus tests of Christian health. He assumed that Christians would live in an attitude of thankfulness for the many blessings bestowed upon them. By contrast, one of the first indicators of departure from God is a lack of thanksgiving (e.g., Rom 1:21ff.)” - R. R. Melick





For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:21





So, when you notice discontentment in your heart evidenced by a lack of thanksgiving, preach to yourself the riches of Jesus the Lord! Preach to yourself the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus the Lord!





Vs. 8 Don't be fooled by the empty promises of this world.



Marie Antoinette is notorious for her heartless statement about the starving people of France who had no bread: “Let them eat cake.” This same queen, surrounded by lavish furnishings, extravagant clothing, abundant and exotic food, and servants to provide for her every wish, also despairingly said, “Nothing tastes.”

Vs. 9 The God of the universe resides in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is God.





Vs. 10 We who are in Christ are filled to the brim with Jesus so we need nothing else. Jesus plus any other teaching, god, or guru is heresy. We are complete in Jesus.



We are united to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe. All that He is flows to us as we trust in Him. We have spiritual authority over all things as we walk in His power. We are “in Christ”. The Lord Jesus is my shepherd, I lack nothing.



Vs.11 In Jesus we have been removed from life in the flesh. We are no longer children of Adam but children of God through the finished work of Jesus.






What is circumcision of the heart?

"Moreover, the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live." Deuteronomy 30:6





“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will punish all those who are circumcised merely in the flesh— Egypt, Judah, Edom, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and all who dwell in the desert who cut the corners of their hair, for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in heart.” Jeremiah 9:25-26



For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. Romans 2:28-29




Vs. 12-15 The death and resurrection of Jesus is yours which not only brings forgiveness but a new life with new power over sin and the demonic realm.



Vs. 14 Jesus payment for your sins means your crimes have been dismissed, forgiven, and your record expunged.





My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious
thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!



Vs. 15 Through the cross of Jesus, Satan is stripped naked of his power to accuse, condemn, or harm the believer.





Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul



Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.





For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Hebrews 2:14-18 NIV



Vs. 15 The Cross is where the Devil was publicly shamed.



“Paul ended this section on a triumphant note. His arguments countered his opponents at every point. The sovereign Savior disgraced his enemies on the cross, exposing them to public shame.

Clothing was the visible distinguishing mark of an authority figure. He could afford the best clothing, and he was obligated to wear the best to represent the people subject to him.”






“When defeated or demoted, the first symbolic act was to remove the royal garments. The image Paul used here portrayed that action. God stripped his enemies of their “royal facade,” exposing them for what they really were. No one should follow them. They were defeated, disgraced, and powerless because of the work of Christ.” -R. R. Melick

Atonement is the brain and spinal cord of Christianity. Take away the cleansing blood, and what is left to the guilty? -Charles Spurgeon



“If Christ has died for me—then I cannot trifle with the sin which killed my best Friend!” – Charles Spurgeon





“When you set yourself to seriously pursue holiness, you will begin to realize what an awful sinner you are. And if you are not firmly rooted in the gospel and have not learned to preach it to yourself every day, you will soon become discouraged and will slack off in your pursuit of holiness.”





“To preach the gospel to yourself, then, means that you continually face up to your own sinfulness and then flee to Jesus through faith in His shed blood and righteous life.



It means that you appropriate, again by faith, the fact that Jesus fully satisfied the law of God, that He is your propitiation, and that God's holy wrath is no longer directed toward you." – Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace*





“Since the gospel is only for sinners, I begin each day with the realization that despite my being a saint, I still sin every day in thought, word, deed, and motive.



If I am aware of any subtle, or not so subtle, sins in my life, I acknowledge those to God. Even if my conscience is not indicting me for conscious sins, I still acknowledge to God that I have not even come close to loving Him with all my being or loving my neighbor as myself.





I repent of those sins, and then I apply specific Scriptures that assure me of God's forgiveness to those sins I have just confessed."





“I then generalize the Scripture’s promises of God’s forgiveness to all my life and say to God words to the effect that my only hope of a right standing with Him that day is Jesus’ blood shed for my sins, and His righteous life lived on my behalf. Almost every day, I find myself reflecting on the promises of forgiveness in the Bible.” –Jerry Bridges, *Respectable Sins*



Fundamentally, the gospel is forgotten when it no longer functions as our ongoing hope and confidence before God, or when it becomes unessential for the practical, daily living of the Christian life.





The gospel we often forget must be reclaimed and retained for the safety of our souls, and this is done through preaching the gospel to ourselves. – Joe Thorn



There is no fighting for the kingdom if the gospel isn't central to your life. Without a consistent clinging to the gospel, believers begin to lose the joy of their salvation and move in the direction of performance-based religion.



You begin to get your identity from what you do instead of Jesus' work on your behalf. You begin to move towards being an older brother that focuses on what's wrong with other people instead of what's right with Jesus.





How is the gospel your primary spiritual weapon against the world, the flesh, and the devil?



FIGHTING FOR THE KINGDOM

Are you experiencing the Victory Jesus has already won for you?





How do our lives reflect the Loving Lordship of Jesus our Shepherd-King?



Is there an area of your life you've given the devil a foothold that you need to take back through the power of the cross?



If you get thoroughly honest with yourself what are you looking for besides Jesus for your happiness?






FIGHTING FOR THE KINGDOM



Have you received Christ Jesus who is Lord?



“The cross is the danger signal to you. It warns you that if God spared not his only son, He will not spare you. It is the lighthouse set on the rocks of sin to warn you that swift and sure destruction awaits you if you continue to rebel against the Lord.” – Charles Spurgeon



If Jesus is your Lord, what are some areas in your life where self- rule is still showing up and needs to be eliminated?





Are you devoted to the Person who is
Jesus Christ the Lord?



Since Jesus is Lord of all, what fears need to go? What wounds need healed?



“Go to Calvary and stay there a long time and watch Abba’s Only Begotten die utterly alone in bloody disgrace. Watch as he breathes forgiveness on His torturers at the moment of their greatest cruelty and mercilessness. On that lonely hill outside the city wall of Old Jerusalem, you will experience the healing power of the dying Lord”. – Brennan Manning





FIGHTING FOR THE KINGDOM

Are you getting your identity from the gospel?





FIGHTING FOR THE KINGDOM



Is the gospel motivating you?



“Stand at the foot of the cross, and count the purple drops by which you have been cleansed; see the thorn-crown; mark His scourged shoulders, still gushing with encrimsoned rills... And if you do not lie prostrate on the ground before that cross, you have never seen it.” –Charles Spurgeon





FIGHTING FOR THE KINGDOM

Is the gospel satisfying you?





“The arms of the Lord that fight back our enemies and rule in power are the same arms of the Shepherd that carry us, hold us close to his heart, and lead us when we are weak.





Jesus the Lord is mighty and merciful, tough and tender, glorious and good, powerful and yet patient. He is trustworthy, in all things and at all times. Trust Him.”

– Dustin Crowe, *Finding Satisfaction in Christ: A Devotional Study of Colossians*

