

# **The Best News: A Reason to Get Up in the Morning**

## ***Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* by Paul David Tripp**

### **Chapter 1**

*This news has nothing to do with fantasies, dreams, or unrealistic expectations. It is rooted in historical facts and present realities. (2 Peter 1:16) It penetrates the harshest human situation with life-altering hope. It is the only thing really worth living for! It is the good news!<sup>1</sup>*

1. The BEST NEWS = I Corinthians 15:3-4
2. Penetrates the harshest human situations with life-altering hope = I Thess 4:13-18
3. Worth living for = 2 Corinthians 5:15

#### **● Life before the fall**

For a brief period of time when God created the world, perfect people walked through a perfect world in perfect union with God. The environment was lush and rich, with a menagerie of animals that inhabited the air, land, and sea. Every physical and spiritual need was fully met. There were no unfed stomachs or diseases to be feared. The gardens were free of weeds and thorns. Man and woman, Adam, and Eve, lived in perfect union with each other. There was no unhealthy competition, no power struggle, no vengeance, or recrimination. There were no secret plots or harsh words, no fear, guilt, shame, or rebellion against authority. There was understanding, communication, and love. There was no struggle with identity, anxiety, depression, or addiction. There was no painful personal history to overcome. There was no fear of what might happen next, no mixed motives, no struggle with inordinate desire. There was no temptation to sin. With God, too, there was a perfect union. People loved, worshiped, and obeyed as they were created to do. In the cool of the day, they actually walked with God in the Garden, enjoying perfect fellowship with their Maker. They were God's resident managers, placed there to govern what he had made, and they did their job well. God had no reason to confront them, and they had nothing to confess. All was right, day after day. Life was better than anything we can imagine from our sin-scarred vantage point.

#### **● Life after the fall**

But sadly, it didn't last long. In the most significant rebellious act ever committed, man and woman stepped outside of God's ordained plan. In a second it all came crashing down. All of the amazing beauty of that world was deeply and permanently scarred. In an instant, fear, guilt, and shame became standard human experiences. People who once lived in perfect harmony now accused, deceived, and fought for control. Weeds and disease became daily concerns. People began to desire what was evil and do what was wrong. Rather than submit to God's authority, they lived as their own gods. The world that once sang the song of perfection now groaned under the weight of the Fall. Sin altered every thought, desire, word, and deed. It created a world of doublemindedness and mixed motives, self-worship, and self-absorption. People desired to be served, but they hated serving. They craved control and nurtured delusions of self-sufficiency. They forgot their Creator but worshiped his creation. Rather than loving people and using things to express it, people loved things and used people to get them. Humanity's second generation even committed murder. They began to lie, cheat, hide, and deny. People suffered at the hands of others, from momentary thoughtlessness to unspeakable acts of physical and sexual abuse. For the first time, people wept from grief within and suffering without. God now saw his world ravaged by sin.<sup>2</sup>

#### **● Sin Produces Three characteristics.**

- o Rebellion
- o Foolishness
- o Inability to do right.

#### **● Replacing the KING with a thing. Romans 1:18-32**

Before the Lord God made man upon the earth, He first prepared for him by creating a world of useful and pleasant things for his sustenance and delight. In the Genesis account of the creation these are called simply "things." They were made for man's uses, but they were meant always to be external to the man and subservient to him. In the deep heart of the man was a shrine where none but God was worthy to come. Within him was God; without, a thousand gifts which God had showered upon him. But sin has introduced complications and has made those very gifts of God a potential source of ruin to the soul. Our woes began when God was forced out of His central shrine and "things" were allowed to enter. Within the human heart "things" have taken over. Men have now by nature no peace within their hearts, for God is crowned there no longer, but there in the moral dusk stubborn and aggressive usurpers fight

<sup>1</sup>Tripp, Paul David. *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change* (p. 1). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid. pages 1-3.

among themselves for first place on the throne. This is not a mere metaphor, but an accurate analysis of our real spiritual trouble. There is within the human heart a tough fibrous root of fallen life whose nature is to possess, always to possess. It covets "things" with a deep and fierce passion. The pronouns "my" and "mine" look innocent enough in print, but their constant and universal use is significant. They express the real nature of the old Adamic man better than a thousand volumes of theology could do. They are verbal symptoms of our deep disease. The roots of our hearts have grown down into things, and we dare not pull up one rootlet lest we die. Things have become necessary to us, a development never originally intended. God's gifts now take the place of God, and the whole course of nature is upset by the monstrous substitution.<sup>3</sup>

- **God's agenda for His Kingdom**

- o His glory
  - Isaiah 43:7 & I Cor 10:31
- o To know Christ and be like Him
  - John 17:3; Phil 3:8; Phil 1:21; Romans 8:28-29; 2 Cor 3:18

- **The Core issue and the Core solution**

- o The core problem issue is my sin.
  - Romans 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
  - Romans 7:24-25 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.
- o The core solution is Jesus Christ
  - The answer to our problem is a Person. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; I Tim 2:5; Col 1:13-29; John 1:29

- **The Ministry of the Word of God.**

- o The Private Ministry of the Word in my life
  - Psalm 1 & John 15:7
- o The Personal Ministry of the Word in other's lives.
  - Ephesians 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,
  - Romans 15:14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.
- o The Public Ministry of the Word

- **Love**

- o God's redemptive activity takes place within loving relationships.
  - With Christ first I Peter 3:15
  - With others next. Other believers are part of our sanctification.
    - God has a higher goal for our relationships than our personal happiness.
    - God wants our relationships to be the context for the change He works in and through us. (the one another passages)
    - We need to build relationships that encourage this work of change.
- o Scripture highlights four things when it calls us to love someone in a way that promotes God's work of heart change. Each aspect of Love promotes relationships where God's goals are central.
  - Enter their world.
  - Identify with their suffering.
  - Incarnate the love of Christ.
  - God's grace leads to change.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Tozer, A. W. (Aiden Wilson). The Pursuit of God (p. 11). Kindle Edition.

<sup>4</sup>Tripp, Paul David. Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change. P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.