

10 RODS OF TRUTH



10 RODS OF TRUTH IN
A RAGING WORLD



RECLAIMING SANITY

September 22

RECLAIMING BIBLICAL LITERACY

September 29

RECLAIMING THE GOSPEL

October 6

RECLAIMING SPIRITUALITY

October 13

RECLAIMING THE NEXT GENERATION

October 20

RECLAIMING MARRIAGE & FAMILY

October 27

RECLAIMING POLITICS

November 3

RECLAIMING THE RAINBOW

November 10

RECLAIMING MASCULINITY & FEMININITY

November 17

RECLAIMING LIFE

November 24

CHAPTER 3: RECLAIMING THE GOSPEL

Commentary

What is the Gospel? The word gospel comes from a few derivatives. (God's spell or God's word or good word). Or, as we know it, "the good news." So then, what is the "good news?" The good news is the solution to man's principal primal problem, the fall of a perfect world that was declared wholly good by a holy God. The imago Dei rightly groans within each person with a bone-weary battle cry, "This is not how things are supposed to be!" (Romans 8:22). True enough. But let's not heal the wound lightly (Jeremiah 6:14, 8:11). The good news is only good if you understand the bad news.

For after the recognition there is good to pursue, another thought slithers in as the pain from the Fall settles into our minds, "If the world is no longer good then neither can God be good. I hate him!" We are consumed with killing anything that resembles Him. We prove over and over again that Adam and Cain represent us well; abdication is our father and murder is our brother. War against God, sin, is our native language that even Babel could not confuse. Abdication feeds our children with stones rationalizing, "It's okay, nobody's perfect." Murder scrums over our sibling to hold our head above the water declaring, "I'm better than most people." The end of sin is a stone around our neck as we sink into the sea; we are dead in our sin (Ephesians 2:1-3). We mistake the truth of the necrosis of our conscience feeling our sinful nature for the lie that those mantras are soothing our souls.

Our descent continues, we don't feel bad anymore. In fact, we don't feel anything anymore. We can touch the fire without feeling the burn, concluding that we are no longer burned. Everything is upside down. The charred arm is evidence that our body is thoroughly warmed. The flames start to seem like home. We resolve to draw ourselves deeper in the flames and invite others to do the same, preaching that God's messengers, warning us to get away from the fire, want me to be cold. We always kill God's prophets (Matthew 23:37-39) until God sends His Son with the fulfillment of the same message (Matthew 21:33-46). We can't escape inherent sin. We are in a pit equipped with only a shovel; we need a savior. When confronted with God as the savior, we would kill him, and so we did. This is what it means to be dead in our sins, unable to escape the depth of our sin, unable to accept a savior, and thus unable to be saved.

But this is not the end. The reason that we celebrate the Lord's Day on Sunday is that Jesus reverses the curse sin (Galatians 3:13). His coronation as king over this place was marked by an anointing by a woman of the city (Luke 7:37-39), a glorious crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29), blood stained purple robes (John 19:5). The tree Jesus was hanged on became the tree of life with himself as the vine. Upon his resurrection, he was properly identified as the gardener (John 20:15), the final Adam taking dominion. Jesus became the high priest that never dies of the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:6), who always intercedes for his people (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus ascended to his throne at the right hand of God, where he rules today until all of his enemies are made a footstool (1 Corinthians 15:25). He is the savior, the only savior, who never fails.

The Gospel is offensive because it stakes a claim on every person's life, informs us that we don't get to live life on our own terms, and reveals that we cannot will ourselves to be right before God. The Gospel requires laying down pride and obtaining victory over death by surrender to Jesus. The Gospel is sweet to those who surrender and offensive to that which has been defeated. In the end every knee will bow. Every enemy defeated either by a second birth or a second death. The Gospel is a dividing line. Christians are able to be flexible in many matters. The Gospel is not numbered among them.

Reclamation Charge: Jesus is prophet, priest, and king. There is no neutral ground. What areas that are culturally determined to be "neutral ground" need to be deemed claimed by Jesus? The answer is all of them, but meditate on specific examples.

Selected Scriptures

Colossians 2:8-15, Galatians 1:6-9

3 Key Points:

- † The prosperity gospel, the healing gospel, the progressive and affirming gospel are NOT the true Gospel.
- † A gospel that doesn't mention sin, hell, repentance, or the cross is NOT the Gospel.
- † You can't appreciate salvation if you don't know what you're being saved from.

