

Join the resistance #1 First importance. Resisting Condemnation & Legalism

Most important message

What's the most important message people outside need to hear? = Gospel.

What's the most important message that Christians need to hear?

See **1Co 15:1-5**

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

First importance! Essential

Reminding them of the Gospel.

Who was book of Romans written to? = Christians.

Rom 1:15

So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome

See also **Eph 1-3; Col 1-2.**

1Co 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Who is the message of the cross powerful towards? Us!

Why is it so important?

Explain Gospel

Righteousness - right standing before God, acceptance with God, forgiveness from God.

But - not just for the unsaved.

For the Christian as well! Not just the way in but it's the whole way we continue to relate to God.

Over the past few years we've heard of all kinds of uprisings & resistance movements.

Two categories of Christian

Performance driven

Good day - e.g

Worthiness of blessing?

Earn something.

How good is good enough?

Isa 64:6

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Guilt ridden

Paint picture.

Gospel is antidote to both

Good day/bad day.

Bad day is never so bad that God's grace isn't enough

Good day is never so good that I don't stand in need of God's grace.

Not based on what I've done but on what Jesus has done.

We need to resist both legalism & condemnation.

The only way we can ever relate to God is thru & In Jesus.

John Bunyan - *A whole flood of blasphemies, both against God, Christ, and the Scriptures were poured upon my spirit, to my great confusion and astonishment. . . . My heart was at times exceeding hard. If I would have given a thousand pounds for a tear, I could not shed one. . . . Oh, the desperateness of man's heart. . . . I feared that this wicked sin of mine might be that sin unpardonable. . . . Oh, no one knows the terrors of those days but myself.*

One day as I was passing into the field . . . this sentence fell upon my soul. Thy righteousness is in heaven. And . . . I saw with the eyes of my soul Jesus Christ at God's right hand; there, I say, was my righteousness; so that wherever I was, or whatever I was doing, God could not say of me, he [lacks] my righteousness, for that was just before him. I also saw, moreover, that it was not my good frame of heart that made my righteousness better, nor yet my bad frame that made my righteousness worse, for my righteousness was Jesus Christ himself, "The same yesterday, today, and forever." Heb. 13:8. Now did my chains fall off my legs indeed. I was loosed from my afflictions and irons; my temptations also fled away; so that from that time those dreadful scriptures of God [about the unforgivable sin] left off to trouble me; now went I also home rejoicing for the grace and love of God.

Objections

Licence to sin?

Does that mean I can do what I want?

No!

Rom 6:1 Now what is our response to be? Shall we sin to our heart's content and see how far we can exploit the grace of God?

Rom 6:15 Now, what shall we do? Shall we go on sinning because we have no Law to condemn us any more, but are living under grace?

(PhillipsNT)

By no means! Certainly not!

More on that next time but asking such a question shows we don't understand the purpose of grace.

Gospel motivations

So. What motivation should we have as Christians? Can we just do as we please?

Two examples:

Forgiven much/love much

Luke 7:36ff. *Sinful woman washes Jesus' feet with her tears, poured expensive perfume on His feet.*

Pharisees complained.

Luk 7:47

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which were many, are forgiven, thus she loved much; a but the one who is forgiven little loves little. (NET)

Compelled by love.

2Co 5:14-15

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this:that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Why did Christ die? = v15

What was a controlling factor in Paul's life?

For the love which Christ has [for me] presses on me from all sides, holding me to one end and prohibiting me from considering any other, wrapping itself around me in tenderness, giving me an impelling motive, having brought me to to this conclusion, namely, that One died on behalf of all 15 in order that those who are living no longer are living for themselves but for the One who died on their behalf and instead of them, and was raised.

(Wuest)

Unpack.

Far from casting off restraint, the Free Gospel motivated Paul to be sold out to God!

When I survey the wondrous cross....

Rom 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (NIV1984)

Therefore - because of what we read in Rom 1-11, there is only 1 adequate response for each one of us. What is it?

Let's do that.