

New Valley's Resolutions

Conviction: the whole Bible is the Gospel of Christ!

- The word “gospel” means “good news.”

Luke 24:25-27 – And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

1. We resolve to read the Bible as the Gospel.

Because the Scriptures are all about Jesus, we resolve to teach the Bible as the story of salvation, not moralistic lessons. We resolve to see how the law, the ceremonies, and the history all point us to their fulfillment in the coming of the Deliverer promised throughout the Bible.

2. We resolve to preach and teach the Gospel to believers, not just unbelievers.

We become Christians and we grow as Christians by grace through faith in Jesus. Therefore, we resolve to preach the Gospel as the means to grow, not ‘principles for living’ (which means ‘the law’) to believers.

3. We resolve to preach and teach the Gospel in every sermon and every lesson.

The most desperate need of both unbelievers and believers is to hear and apply the Gospel to their lives each and everyday. Therefore, we resolve to point people to the Gospel in every sermon, lesson, small group meeting, etc.

4. We resolve to receive the Gospel as the “milk” and the “meat” of God’s Word.

Since the whole Bible is the Gospel and Christ crucified is the wisdom and power of God (1 Cor. 1:22-24), we never graduate from the Gospel to something “deeper”. There is nothing deeper than the Gospel. Therefore, we resolve to view the Gospel as both the A-B-C’s and the A-to-Z of Christianity.

5. We resolve to be “new” people, not “nice” people.

The Gospel is out not to reform people but to transform people. We resolve to seek transformation at the motivational and character level, not merely behavioral modification.

6. We resolve to believe that the Gospel can change anyone.

Since we are saved by grace, there are no hopeless cases and no hopeless situations. Since we are saved by grace, we resolve to have great respect and great hope for everyone.

7. We resolve to motivate with grace, not guilt.

The Gospel is the power of God to motivate us. Those gripped by the Gospel are compelled by the love of Christ (2 Cor. 5:14) to serve, give, and witness. Therefore, we resolve not to motivate people through guilt trips driving them to obey out of fear. But rather we resolve to motivate people through the Gospel that sets us free to love unconditionally out of gratitude for God’s grace.

8. We resolve to solve all problems (personal, church, social) with the Gospel.

The root of all of our problems is that something other than Christ is serving as our functional savior. Therefore, we don’t tell people: “Just try harder/Just stop it!” nor “You need to accept yourself as you are!” Rather, we call all of us to repent of our idols and trust in Christ who through his life and death is the only one makes us new.