

The 2 things that matter above all else

1. Do we believe the Gospel?
2. Do we now, and/or will we in the future submit ourselves to the Scriptures?

1. Do we believe the Gospel?

A. What is the biblical Gospel?

Romans 3:21-26 – “21 But **now the righteousness of God has been manifested** apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.**

For there is no distinction: 23 for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and **are justified by his grace** as a gift, **through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**, 25 whom **God put forward as a propitiation by his blood**, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that **he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**”

- i. Not “Jesus makes life better”
 - ii. Not “God has a plan for your life”
 - iii. Not “church is what we’ve always done”
 - iv. God – Sin – Christ – The Hope of Glory
- B. Is this the message that brings us together today?
- C. Does this message ring loudly in our ears as we worship the God of our salvation?
- D. Do we love the Redeemer who purchased us at such a cost?
- E. Are our hearts burdened for those around us to know and believe?
- F. Will we make a conscious effort to live life missionally – both here and elsewhere?

Do you really BELIEVE the GOSPEL?

2. Do we now, and/or will we in the future submit ourselves to the Scriptures?

A. What are the Scriptures?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “16 All Scripture is **breathed out by God** and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness**, 17 that the man of God **may be complete, equipped for every good work.**”

Psalm 19:7-14 – “The law of the LORD is perfect, **reviving the soul**; the testimony of the LORD is **sure, making wise** the simple; the precepts of the LORD are **right, rejoicing** the heart;

[T]he commandment of the LORD is **pure, enlightening** the eyes; the fear of the LORD is **clean, enduring** forever; the rules of the LORD are **true, and righteous altogether.**

More to be **desired** are they than gold, even much fine gold; **sweeter** also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, **by them** is your servant **warned**; in **keeping them** there is great **reward**. Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be **blameless, and innocent** of great transgression.

Let the **words of my mouth** and **the meditation of my heart** be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”

The law of God specifically, and the entire revelation of God in the Bible, is therefore beneficial to the believer. The knowledge of it revives the soul, brings wisdom, causes our hearts to rejoice, enlightens our eyes, brings the fear of the Lord, clarifies truth, carries the great reward, exposes sin, reveals hidden presumptuous error, prevents greater transgression, and affects our mouths, minds and actions.

- i. Not “a good book”
- ii. Not “the most lovely decoration I own”
- iii. Not “something that will help me live more successfully”
- iv. Not “suggestions about what is best, but one can survive without them”
- v. Not “only pertinent to religious matters”

- vi. The very word of God (one Church moderator says to an historical monarch at his coronation) – “This Book [is] the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.”

These words echo the King James Bible translators, who wrote in 1611: “God’s sacred Word ... is that inestimable treasure that excellet all the riches of the earth.”¹

- B. Are we seeking to be conformed to this holy word – today?
- C. Do we suffer distress at the thought that we may not taste of its goodness today?
- D. Do our hearts break when we think of the various ways in which we are not now conformed to the clear commands of our loving God?
- E. Will we all be more concerned with asking, “What does God’s Word say about this?” rather than asking, “What is expedient, practical, preferable, or easiest?”

Do we now, and/or will we SUBMIT ourselves to the authority of the SCRIPTURES?

I Promise you:

- 1. I believe the Gospel!**
- 2. I do now believe that this is the Word of God; and I do now and will continue to strive towards living my life under the authority of this book!**
- 3. I am a sinful man at best, and I will sin against you.**
- 4. I will, as has been the pattern of my Christian life until now, challenge others and myself to spiritual growth; and I will seek to view all of life in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and under the authority of God’s Holy Word.**

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001. Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.