

## The Truth, the Whole Truth and Nothing But...

Pastor Dave Parker

January 24, 2010

1. God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all things
2. God created \_\_\_\_\_ for His glory
3. God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_
5. God is \_\_\_\_\_ and He is \_\_\_\_\_ to punish sin
6. God is \_\_\_\_\_ and kind to undeserving sinners
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is God's holy and righteous \_\_\_\_\_
8. God put the \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners on Jesus
9. God offers the free gift of salvation to those who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus
10. Those who trust in Jesus will live to \_\_\_\_\_ Him and will receive the promise of eternal life--enjoying God forever in heaven

## My NEXT STEP for this Week:

- Send me information on an evangelism training class. (Pick one day, Monday through Thursday)
- Use the Ten Truths to disciple someone.
- Pursue the ten week family devotional. (\$7 donation in the breezeway)
- Send me the name of an evangelist from the church to pray for.

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Last week we talked about how our supreme authority is  
Scripture Alone -- and salvation is by  
Grace Alone -- through  
Faith Alone -- in  
Christ Alone -- for the  
Glory of God Alone

Those are wonderful summary statements out of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation

A while back our elders were discussing what any person needs to know to be saved.  
What are the basics that we need to be able to communicate for someone to understand the  
gospel?

We had a wonderful discussion - I think we all benefited from the interaction.

The reason that topic is important to keep revisiting is because there will always be a tendency  
for the gospel to *transmogrify* into something it's not.

*Transmogrify* - to change the appearance or form of something, especially in a grotesque or  
bizarre way

I've never read a Calvin and Hobbes comic strip in my life, before yesterday.

Calvin is an imaginative and adventurous six-year old boy, and Hobbes, his energetic stuffed  
tiger.

The pair are named after:

John Calvin, a 16th-century French Reformation theologian --

And Thomas Hobbes, a 17th-century English political philosopher.

Well, Calvin has a transmogrifier gun that can change the appearance of things or even himself.  
All he needs to do is give the command and the change occurs.

Calvin is falling from 2 miles high -

How this happened I'm not sure - a dream perhaps.

We enter midway through his discussion with himself.

(Run through all four slide - one right after the other as I read the comic)

Poor Calvin - He thought he had the answer and he was safe, but instead he met disaster.

The tendency with the Gospel is to transmogrify it into something of our own making.

We think that we will change it into something that will be a quick fix for our problem,

But instead, it creates a problem.

What we don't realize is that a Gospel of our own making isn't safe at all, it's a disaster.

We tend to pull out our man-made Gospel and tell people to accept this and they'll be safe.

And instead they are plunging unaware, to their eternal destruction.

How have we transmogrified the Gospel?

Let me mention just a few things.

We have put man at the center of the Gospel instead of God.  
It's a Gospel that presents a plan instead of a person.  
It's a Gospel that comforts instead of convicts.  
It's a Gospel that merely acknowledges true facts and not a surrender of one's life to the Lord.  
It's a Gospel that enslaves men to works instead of freeing believers to do good works.  
It's a Gospel that asks for acceptance instead of a Gospel that demands repentance.  
It's a Gospel that is brought about by man's decisive choice instead of God's sovereign grace.  
It's a Gospel that promises affirmation instead of God's radical transformation.  
It's a Gospel that exalts man and his desire to be made much of instead of exalting God's love,  
Displayed in the person and work of Jesus Christ, who alone brings us near to God so that we  
can experience the immeasurable joy of making much of Him.

My goal this morning is to attempt to tell you the truth...whole truth...nothing but ...  
concerning the gospel.

**Truth One: God is the SOVEREIGN CREATOR of all things**

It makes sense that if God created everything, it all belongs to Him.  
God's is the boss -- He is the One who is in charge.

Several people have purchased box cars for the derby.  
Should the block of wood have any input in what is carved?  
God made us and we belong to Him and He has the final word...PERIOD.

*Isaiah 45:9* "Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots!  
Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles'?"

*Jeremiah 18:6* "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the  
LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

That God is the sovereign Creator of all things is basic to true religion.  
If we recognize that the One who made us is the One on whom we depend  
For every beat of our heart and the very breath that comes from our lungs-  
Then, it makes sense that we would honor Him by doing His desire and not our own.

*Godliness starts here, with God the sovereign Creator as the first focus of our thoughts.  
Knowing that God created the world around us, and ourselves as part of it, is basic to true  
religion.*

- J.I. Packer -

Packer is saying that this is the place to start.

We must recognize that God is Creator.

He owns everything and He has the un-negotiating freedom to do whatever He deems right.

*God is to be trusted as the sovereign LORD, with an eternal plan covering all events and  
destinies without exception, and with power to redeem, re-create and renew; such trust  
becomes rational when we remember that it is the almighty Creator that we are trusting.*

- J.I. Packer -

God is the sovereign Creator of all things

He has not only created everything that exists -- He is Sovereign over it all

*The sovereignty of the God of Scripture,  
is . . . absolute, irresistible and infinite!*

*We insist that God does . . .*

*as He pleases,*

*only as He pleases,*

*always as He pleases!*

*- A.W. Pink*

*Psalm 115:3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*

*Psalm 135:6 Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all  
deeps.*

*Daniel 4:35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to  
his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his  
hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*

We desperately need a huge view of a sovereign Creator God.

### **Truth Two: God created PEOPLE for His glory**

Turn to Isaiah 43.

Have you ever wondered why we're here?

I mean what's the purpose? (VBS kid who was always asking "What's the purpose?")

*Isaiah 43:6-7 "I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my  
sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my  
name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."*

What does it mean to have been created for God's glory?

Illustration of a flashlight and a mirror.

The mirror reflects the light.

That is our mandate and that is what we should do -- accurately reflect God's glory.

Well, how do we do that?

*Mathew 5:16 "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give  
glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

#### **1. We ought to behave in a way that God gets glory.**

This is a particular life and conduct that brings glory to God.

That is the purpose for which we were made.

#### **2. This conduct involves good works.**

Our great objective is not to do our best to avoid the horrible sins.

Our objective is to pursue deeds of kindness, generosity, service, love, and on and on. Why? Because that is how we fulfill our purpose, that is, bringing God glory.

If this is true it should be confirmed in other Scriptures.

*Titus 2:14* [Jesus Christ] *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

*Evidently, our good works are those by which God get glory.*

### **3. Some good works do not bring glory to God.**

There are plenty of people trying to help in Haiti with purely humanistic motives.

And though those good works may help other humans who are in need --

As far as those good deeds fulfilling some requirement to get to heaven -- they are worthless.

Until the light of Christ shines in the individual, all righteous need are like filthy rags.

God created us for His glory and there is no wiggle-room for one scrap of glory for any man.

Real glory is reflected through the good works of a child of God who is filled with His light.

And the bottom line in all we do is to bring glory to our Sovereign Creator.

### **Truth Three: God is HOLY and RIGHTEOUS**

One of the tools that the writers of Scripture used to emphasize a point is verbal repetition.

I'd like to show you an example of how Paul uses repetition to emphasize a point.

*Galatians 1: 6-9* *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

When Jesus would say a word twice it was to underscore the importance of what he would say.

A word like truly, truly.

*John 3:3* *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

*John 5:24* *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”*

*John 6:47* *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.”*

*John 10:7* *So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”*

At the risk of beating a dead horse -- repetition is a powerful way to emphasize a point.

What am I doing?

I'm emphasizing a point by repeating it because what I'm going to say is important.

Here it is.

There is only 1 attribute of God ever repeated, not 2 times, but 3 times to emphasize its importance.

Holy, Holy, Holy -- God alone is holy.

*1 Samuel 2:2 "There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."*

The more righteous the man the more he trembles when he comes in contact with God.

The universal experience of man when they come in contact with a Holy God, is fear.

Why? Because God is holy and we are not.

Not only is God holy, His commands are righteous and holy.

*Romans 7:12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*

Our job as humans is to mirror and reflect the holiness and righteousness of God.

It is so critical to grasp the holiness and righteousness of God? Why?

Men are never duly touched and impressed with a conviction of their insignificance until they have contrasted themselves with the majesty of God. - John Calvin -

Turn in your Bibles to Isaiah 6.

We desperately need the infinitely righteous standard if we will ever know the depths of our sin. God and His Commandments are righteous and holy.

And when we get a view of God as One who is righteous and holy everything changes.

*Isaiah 6:1-4 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" 4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.*

This message of holiness that the angels were proclaiming shook the very foundations of heaven.

Now look at the prophet Isaiah and his response to a holy God.

*Isaiah 6:1-5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"*

### **Truth Four: MAN is SINFUL**

The foundations of heaven were shaking in response to the proclamation of God, the Holy.

But I'm interested in Isaiah's response to being confronted by the thrice holy God.

He focuses on his unclean lips.

Why is that?

Before we get to that, it's fascinating to me how I can judge myself by those around me.

I can rationalize my sin because I can always find somebody around who is in worse shape than me

I'm often like the Pharisee in Luke 18 who prayed to himself...

*"Oh God, I'm glad I'm not like the really hideous people..."*

But that was not the situation with Isaiah.

He cursed himself and said *"Woe is me! For I am lost;"*

Here's what happened, Isaiah got a glimpse of the holiness of God and sin wasn't funny anymore.

The light of God's holiness exposed every wicked way in Isaiah, so that it scared him spitless.

But why focus on his "unclean lips."

**Matthew 15:11** *"it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person."*

Here's what I think is going on here.

I've asked thousands of people if they have ever lied.

What do you think the most common answer is?

*"Yeah, everybody lies"* -- in other words, they justify their sin.

You're driving along in your car at 65mph when the speed limit is 50mph.

You justify yourself by saying - "everyone goes 65, it's no big deal."

However, when the light of the law shines in your mirror, the self-delusion ceases.

Your stomach drops as you know justice is about to take its course.

When Isaiah saw God's holiness, he saw for the first time the reality of his sinfulness.

He knew that what came out of his mouth was an indicator of that which was in his deceitful heart.

All self-delusion ceased.

The searchlight of God's holiness and His perfect law exposed Isaiah for what he really was.

Sin is transgression of God's law and any sin shows an infinite disrespect to our Creator. Why?

*Sin makes this profession, that there is not enough good in God to satisfy this soul.*

*- Jeremiah Burroughs -*

We reason: *"I need to lust in order to be fulfilled"* --

*"I require money to make me happy"* --

*"I must have my way in order to satisfy the longings of my soul, because God, You just don't cut it"*

Sin says, *"I know what Your Word says, God, but I just don't think I can trust that You know what you're talking about."*

It's the same issue Adam and Even came up against in the Garden of Eden.

*“Should we trust what God said or not?”*

Their action said, *“We’re smarter than You on this one God -- get out of our way.”*

And that’s what we do every day, isn’t it...isn’t it?

And when Isaiah was confronted with pure holiness, he cried out *“Woe is me! I’m filthy!”*

We are in the same boat as Isaiah, but we’ve dumbed down God’s holiness so much --

We’re not much bothered by sin.

But then comes, truth #5.

### **Truth Five: God is JUST and is RIGHT to punish sin**

*No man will let go of his darling sins unless he see a reason to. Hell is a good reason. - Ray Comfort -*

The modern church had the horrible idea to stop talking about a high and holy God.

God became “the man upstairs” or a buddy who just loves, loves, loves me, no matter what.

Along with the low view of God the modern church decided to stop talking about sin.

After all, if God isn’t massive in His holiness, is sin really ‘that bad’ after all?

So God is no longer seen as high and holy -- strike one.

And man isn’t all that bad -- strike two.

Then to top off the heresy they ‘struck out looking’ -- By trying their best to do away with Hell.

Here’s what the Bible says about Hell:

*Daniel 12:2 “Shame and everlasting contempt.”*

*Matthew 25:46 “Eternal punishment.”*

*Matthew 24:51 “Weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

*Luke 3:17 “Unquenchable fire.”*

*Romans 2:8-9 “Wrath and fury...tribulation and distress.”*

*2Thessalonians 1:9 “Eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord”*

*Jude 7,13 “Eternal fire...utter darkness.”*

*Revelation 14:10-11 he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur ... And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night...*

Folks, if there is no hell then the Bible is miserably mistaken - AND.

If there is a hell, then we should be warning people about this horrible place!

I know that it’s not fun to talk about God’s wrath.

It doesn’t make for playful banter and it may not be polite etiquette at tea.

But it’s an indispensable part of the Gospel.

Spurgeon-*Where this is not preached, I am bold to say the gospel is not preached*

I know it’s not easy.

*“There is no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than the doctrine of hell, if it lay in my power. But it has the full support of Scripture and especially, of our Lord’s own words; it has always been held by the Christian Church, and it has the support of reason. - ”C.S. Lewis -*

We have prisons that are full of people. Why is that?  
We’ve decided as a society that people who break the law should be punished.  
Why does it bother people so much that God would also punish?  
Is it because He will be so thorough in His judgment?

You see, God WILL punish murders, rapists and child molesters --  
But He will also punish liars, thieves and blasphemers.  
He will punish any thought, word, action or attitude that falls short of His glorious holiness.  
And if Hell is real then WE ALL DESERVE TO GO TO HELL!  
No wonder it’s not a popular topic.

Mankind will do whatever they can to force this topic from their minds.  
We like to be liked and since it’s a topic that bothers people --  
It’s easy to just not bring it up.  
But we must.

*They laugh at you; they dance upon their own graves. At last they die! Your delicacy is cruelty; your flatteries are poisons; you are a murderer. Shall we keep men in a fool’s paradise? Shall we lull them into soft slumbers from which they will awake in hell? Are we to become helpers of their damnation by our smooth speeches? In the name of God we will not. - Charles Spurgeon -*

God’s just wrath is just as much a part of God as His love and grace and mercy.  
Who are we to deny that which cannot be separated from an infinitely righteous Judge?  
We all deserve punishment and there is nothing that we can do in our own efforts to avoid hell.

Our desire is that you understand these truths and that you pass them on.  
Sandy Parker our Children’s Director has made a book available this morning that outlines these ten truths in a very helpful way.  
Though the title suggests that it is for helping children, it is useful for youth and adults alike.  
And though I can’t make anything mandatory --  
Parents, grandparents, teachers, and those who love the Gospel --  
you’ve got to understand these truths and communicate them effectively.  
For the next ten weeks Sandy will be supporting any of you who would like to go through this material, one week, one truth.  
She has a bunch of info that will explain how you can teach those you love.  
Know these truths --  
Love these truths --  
So that the Gospel you teach will never transmogrify into something it’s not.

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7. **JESUS** is God's holy and righteous **SON**
8. God put the **PUNISHMENT** of sinners on Jesus
9. God offers the free gift of salvation to those who **REPENT** and **BELIEVE** in Jesus
10. Those who trust in Jesus will live to **PLEASE** Him and will receive the promise of eternal life--enjoying God forever in heaven