

9: "The decision that the gospel demands"

Message

Introduction

Introduction to the series

Shaped by the gospel: the gospel changes what we are, and calls us to live according to our new identity.

Today we'll look at the question: how does the gospel shape the way in which I respond to God?

Idea of the message

To enter into the gospel's promise, you have to make the decision to follow Jesus

Message

What iss	What could be
<p>Gospel presents a problem: we are lost</p> <p>We are bad (Romans 3:23)</p> <p>Our sinfulness deserves death (Romans 6:23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Because we have offended the Supreme Being of the universe <p>We can not undo the bad we have done</p> <p>We can not stop doing bad things</p>	<p>The Gospel presents a solution: We can be saved</p> <p>1 Peter 3:18</p> <p>Christ paid the price for sins</p> <p>He takes us to God</p> <p>Absorbed the wrath of God (Romans 5:1)</p> <p>He gave us His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">We can be perfect in the eyes of God
<p>We make up how we come to God</p> <p>Non-Christians: The decision we usually make is to add a bit of God / Jesus / Spirituality to life - go to church - be better</p> <p>For Christians, we try to move others to add a bit of God to their life - not necessarily to make a decision</p>	<p>Big Idea: To enter into the gospel's promise, you have to make the decision to follow Jesus</p> <p>The Gospel calls you make the decision to follow Jesus</p> <p>I Peter 3:20-21</p>

<p>It leaves us confused:</p> <p>Christian feel we must help others to achieve something, but we haven't defined very well what this "something" is - maybe come to church, but we feel that there is more</p> <p>Non Christian: we come to church, but we feel that there is more</p>	<p>When God saves (1 Peter 1) - I make a decision</p> <p>Connect this decision with other moments in which Peter had to choose to follow Jesus</p> <p>Mark 1:16-18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> initial decision to follow Jesus <p>John 6:67-69</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision that Jesus asked of them and how Peter replied <p>Acts 2:37- 39</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision that Peter put before them all (and all that would come later) <p>Connect baptism with salvation can lead us into two errors:</p>
<p>Error 1: Baptism as meaningless formality</p> <p>(It is important to believe and repent, baptism does not matter)</p> <p>It's by grace through faith, and not by works (Ephesians 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> And then baptism is categorized as a work <p>So it is done apart from the decision</p>	<p>To enter into the gospel's promise, you have to make the decision to follow Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has a physical component <p>It isn't any more a work than believing and repenting is a work</p> <p>Baptism is the physical part of the response - it's how we sealed the decision</p> <p>Similar to the wedding in the dating relationship - If you do not get there physically, you have not made the decision</p> <p>It is part of the decision every time we see an example of people who decide to follow Jesus in Acts</p> <p>If you have not been baptized, you have not finished making your decision (it may be that you repented, but weren't baptized)</p>
<p>Error 2: Baptism as a magical rite</p> <p>(I am baptized, I am saved, why are you saved?, Because I was baptized)</p> <p>This could be in the religions that baptize children and in those in which adults are baptized.</p> <p>This is seen when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We baptize babies 	<p>To enter into the gospel's promise, you have to make the decision to follow Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baptism only means something in the context of that heart response/decision <p>It is by grace, the work is of Jesus, baptism is not a magical work - it is a response to God, it doesn't earn you salvation</p> <p>Just because you get into water, does not mean you</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We push people to be baptized (instead of guiding them into make a decision to follow Jesus) • You get baptized and go on w/ life like before 	<p>made your decision</p> <p>Valid only in the context of your decision making</p>
<p>Next Step</p> <p>1 - You have never made this decision: Make your own decision (repent and be baptized) what's stopping you to make your own decision?</p> <p>2 - Are you sure you made your decision We assume that we have entered Did you really make your decision, as Jesus asks? This is the most important question. Perhaps you were baptized, you said a prayer or were baptized as a child. We assume that we have entered. You should analyze your decision and ask if you really made your own decision to follow Jesus by repenting and being baptized. If not, make your decision today.</p> <p>3 - Do you live like your own lord/boss? The decision you made was that Jesus would be your Lord. You need to return to that decision today. Repent- put him on the throne again Leave a persistent sin</p> <p>4 - Help someone else come to this decision: Remember, our goal is to help others to take this decision - by: Friendship; Studies; Invitations; Answering questions Who are you helping enter into peace with God? What is your next step with them?</p>	<p>Because it</p> <p>1 Peter 3:22</p> <p>When we make this decision, we enter into the living hope of the gospel: the resurrection and eternal life.</p> <p>When we help someone else make this decision, they enter into this hope</p>

Communion

in communion we remember Jesus - he who paid the price for our sin, he who pushed through so that we could decide to enter into peace with God. We give thanks.