



Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

MESSENGER

“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – August 06, 2017

Heart to Heart...

I am convinced that God can meet our every need and He alone is the power source to over-come the struggles in our lives. The Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in those in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:9-11) What kind of power is available to us? More and more we find people, baptized into Christ for their forgiveness from Him, given of His Spirit and turning to the world for answers to solve their problems.

Psychology is flourishing and growing at a record pace. As more and more fail in their lives, they turn to the “failed” to solve their problems. The behavior of people must relate to God! You cannot explain behavior without understanding its relationship to God. The answer for every person on this earth is simple: look at the *gospel!* **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”** (Romans 1:16) God’s power to save is found only in the gospel, has always been in the gospel and will be in the gospel until the return of Christ. Wrong behavior, confusion (God is not the source of confusion) and such is the result of sin and sin brings death to people. Death is a spiritual separation from God. It’s aloneness and lostness. God’s power is placed within the gospel to change the behavior of people by bringing them life. The gospel is God’s solution because the gospel changes the heart. Change the heart and you change the person! Psychology cannot forgive sins and cleanse the conscience. The gospel can forgive and relieve the guilt. Psychology cannot save anyone. The gospel saves those who *believe*. Whenever people don’t want God’s solution to man’s problems, they search for temporary relief only to be over-come again and again. It becomes a wearied life. One day you’re fine, the next day you’re down. It’s like a yo-yo. God, through the death of Jesus and His resurrection, brings about stability and real answers for lives for believers.

What psychology tries to free people from, it has only succeeded in making them addicts of therapy and therapists. People just can’t function without “the talk” or feeling the inner turmoil build so they need to unload. Jesus said, **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly.”** (John 10:10) How many lives are being stolen and destroyed? Life is only from Jesus and His power! In Him there is strength and power to overcome.

Listen to what Jesus is called through Isaiah. He would be saving people from their sins but it goes into every aspect of life: **“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”** (Isaiah 9:6) These names describe His character and life. No wonder the apostles were told to go preach the gospel to all creation. Jesus is man’s answer to *every* problem encountered in life.

Sin confuses, corrupts lives and affects behavior. The gospel is God’s power to be free from sin and its effects. The gospel is the only thing that can free one from their past and guarantee the future. You want to help people? Teach them the gospel! You want to strengthen your life? Look and believe in the gospel! You want to solve the difficulties you face? It’s found in the gospel! The gospel is more than just a few words. It’s Jesus and Him crucified. It’s simply amazing how few really believe in God’s power to save! Think about it!!!

Brent