

Firmly Rooted in Gospel Living

Overview

We live in a broken world. We, too, were once broken and lost but God intervened and saved us. This passage reveals a Gospel living sandwich:

Do good in this world (verses 1-2)

Rely on the Gospel (verses 3-7)

Do good in this world (verse 8)

We have the opportunity to have a significant impact within our various circles of relationships. Yet, our ability to do so is connected to and empowered by the Gospel.

Introduction

As we interact in the outside world we all come into contact with difficult people and difficult situations. The world is broken. As Christians live in a way that is empowered by the Gospel we can have a significant impact in the world around us.

1. Engage Culture [Verses 1-2]

Although we are not of the world we are called to live in it and bring change as we live and speak the Gospel. How we relate to others in the workplace, our neighborhoods, and our schools can have a significant impact in this otherwise broken world.

2. In the Power of the Gospel [Verses 3-7]

This call to live differently in the world is directly connected to and empowered by the Gospel. We do not bring change in and out of ourselves. It is God working in and through us by his Spirit through his Word.

3. While being devoted to Good Works [Verse 8]

This Gospel sandwich is completed in verse 8 when we are again called to good works. Our ability to do anything good in this world is because of the work of God in our lives.

Reflection Questions

1. Share about a difficult situation in the outside world. Is there a person you struggle to love or get along with?
2. What part of verses 1-2 is a challenge to you? Where do you tend to fail in your relationships with others in the outside world?
3. What part of the Gospel in verses 3-7 most encourages you? Why?
4. How does the Gospel directly affect how we interact with others?
5. It was mentioned that we can put the Gospel into action by both conscious alignment (daily decisions to do life in a Gospel-driven way) and renewed affections (learning to live out of the new heart God gives us). Would you add anything to that list?
6. What is one situation or one person you could engage in a godlier way this week? How can you specifically pursue that? How can others specifically pray for you in that effort?