

Ongoing Rejuvenation

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 21st, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

~Ezekiel 36:25-27 (ESV)

1) The Gospel Of Jesus Makes People White As Snow

- A) It is notable that the problem of sin is very serious to God (Titus 3:3). We often embrace (as it is presented on TV and in magazines) that sin is no big deal, something to look back and laugh about, or make a funny movie about.
- B) Clearly though, sin is serious business, causing horrible brokenness between God and people (Isaiah 59:1-3, 9-10). Sin causes soul corruption, leaving people soiled, covered in spiritual filth, smelling of death (Psalm 51:2-4).
- C) God is not like people. God is perfect (James 1:17) and will not dwell in mankind's moral filth (1st John 1:5). So, God demands perfection from people (Matthew 5:48).
- D) But knowing this, God provides a Savior, Jesus (Titus 3:3-7). Did you hear that?! When we respond to God's mercy (repentance), we are washed of our filth (cleansed), and made heirs (adopted as children of God)!

- E) Followers of Christ are washed white as snow (Isaiah 1:18), immersed and renewed (symbolized through baptism), made pure for God through a living relationship with our living Savior, Jesus Christ.
- F) Followers of Jesus trust Him with their entire lives, giving God full control, growing in both obedience and belief (Philippians 2:12)! The Gospel (the Good News) provides constant and ongoing rejuvenation (Ephesians 5:26).

2) The Gospel Provides Reconciliation

- A) God did all of this through Jesus Christ in order to provide reconciliation (to restore a relationship) between God and man. As we continue in this ongoing rejuvenation, we experience an ever-increasing relationship, enjoying and celebrating in our reconciliation to God (Romans 5:11).
- B) Like newborns, our relationship with God is fresh and new. We no longer view the world from an earthly perspective, but in a spiritually alive manner (1st Corinthians 5:16-17).

3) The Gospel Makes Us Ambassadors Of Reconciliation

- A) Often, the emphasis of the Gospel message is on what we avoid. There is a strong emphasis on Sin, Judgment, Eternal Separation In The Pit Of Fiery Hell, etc.
- B) While all of these things are important, and without them there is no real “good news” (without the reality of the bad news, there is no good news) – the benefits of Gospel living FAR OUTWEIGH the penalties of sin.
- C) The reality of sin and judgment are not the Gospel! The Gospel is GOOD NEWS! The Good News is that God forgives sin, washes us clean, provides us security in the Spirit, reconciles us, and calls us to be reconcilers!
- E) We are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation (5:18-21)! We carry the extraordinary Gospel message. We are not just forgiven, but chosen and appointed with a purpose!