



Lessons From Left Field

By Chuck Bittrick
Dead Babies

From the Father's Heart

By Pastor Jon Cordeiro

Looking Into Your Future

When you look into your future what do you see? What do you hope for? Here's the kicker, what's your motivation? What's your why? If you aren't clear on your "why", your vision will die. In kind, if your "why" isn't from on high (aligned with your God given purpose), your talent and pride or need for approval might take you to somebody

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Please join us in welcoming our newest arrivals:

- Brent Harden Mar 28, 2017
- Kyle Spragins Apr 3, 2017
- Wayne Winter Apr 3, 2017
- Paul Charles Apr 10, 2017
- Champ Johnson Apr 10, 2017
- Nathan Arnold Apr 14, 2017
- Scott Switzler Apr 17, 2017
- Tim Gaither Apr 25, 2017
- Charles Jones May 8, 2017
- Daniel Busch May 30, 2017
- Chad Allen May 31, 2017

Pray that our recent graduates will walk in their God-given talents for His glory:

J.D. Parsley Apr 15, 2017



Little Betty ate a pound of aspirin
She got them from the shelf upon the wall
Betty's mommy wasn't there to save her
She didn't even hear her little baby call
Dead babies can't take care of themselves
Dead babies can't take things off the shelf
Well we didn't love you anyway - Alice Cooper



It just seemed easier to me to title this article "Dead Babies" instead of "Evangelism as a Form of Infanticide." Either title will do but I think the one I settled on is more likely to leave an impact on the reader, kind of like a black eye. And to be sure, perhaps this is what we deserve for the carnage left behind in the wake of unsanctified mercy (thank you Bill Johnson) we offer our new born babes in Christ that we worked so hard to birth and then leave them to their own devices. Oh yes, we put some energy into "discipling" our newborn into the "right" doctrine. But how much of ourselves are we willing to invest in our new brothers' and sisters' purity, sanctification, steadfastness, healing, freedom, deliverance, peace, holiness, and other characteristics we are called to over and over again in the Scriptures.

In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus reads about Himself from the book of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to



the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Had this passage stopped at "to preach the gospel to the poor" then what is so common within the Body of Christ today would make sense. "Just get 'em saved, just get their ticket to Heaven punched and everything will be okay." But we need to take another look at the punctuation here. Following "preach the gospel to the poor" is a semi-colon. In this case it is used to explain, define, or further clarify what is meant by the previous clause. When Jesus read about Himself, His definition of preaching the gospel to the poor meant: healing

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else's finish line.

When your vision is focused through the lens of Christ you don't see the impossible. You see the promises of God your



Father, who is eternally faithful. When you come up against the obstacles of life or the enemy, you learn to look past them to the other side of the problem, where God's reward is waiting for you so as to glorify Him. He's THE good Father.

When your focus is on the goodness of God it's hard to get down for long. And, it is easier to see all that He is doing in you, through you, and for so many others. This will lead to praising His name, which brings forth His presence! What can stand in His presence? Only that which is of the Light and His love. Are the wheels of your mind and cogs of your heart turning yet? This is a recipe for victory friends.



Have you noticed how much of our Heavenly Father's focus is on others? That's a fairly hysterical rhetorical question; it got me laughing! And how in His Word that we are instructed to do the same? Why is God telling us to focus on others so much? Chances are most of us are too self-centered and would benefit from looking outside of ourselves more and being more aware of other's needs. Might temper our hearts to being more Christ-like.

From the Father's Heart continued

the brokenhearted, deliverance for the captives, sight for the blind, liberty for those who are bruised, and the acceptable year of the Lord. (I suspect that last phrase has something to do with presenting some understanding about what is presently available to us from His Kingdom.)

Even when we stop at the semi-colon and simply "preach the gospel to the poor" we fall well short of the examples offered to us in Scripture. Instead of being "living epistles written on hearts," we invite the unsaved to church, the one place they don't yet belong. The word "church", "ecclesia" in the Greek, which means, a called out company or assembly.

Is the reason we choose not to be living epistles written on hearts is because we have nothing more to offer the unsaved but a ticket to Heaven, something that usually holds very little value to an unbeliever? What if we could offer them healing of their broken hearts, deliverance from their captivity, recovery of their sight, liberty from their bruising, and access to the abundant resources of the Kingdom? How can we offer what we have rejected for our own lives? When we believe that grace is "God's unmerited favor", a kind of wink and a nod and a pat on the head in response to our sin, there is no promise of change. The only freedom offered here is freedom from the penalty of sin, leaving us in our captivity, our bruising, our blindness, our brokenness, and our poverty.

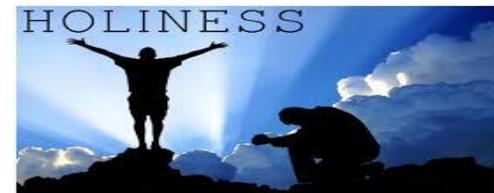


What if we believed in a biblical definition of grace? Titus 2:11-12 states, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Grace demands not only a change in status (from unsaved to saved, from orphan to child of God) but also a change in condition (from ungodliness and worldly striving to

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sobriety, righteousness, and godliness in the right now!). This is how we can be invited into perfection (Matthew 5:48, John 17:23, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:13, Philippians 3:12, Colossians 4:12, 1 Thessalonians 3:10, and many more) because there is enough power in grace to transform us into perfection. The only question left then is whether or not we are desperate enough for what God offers us to receive it. Like Paul, we may never quite attain it, yet again like Paul, we should never quit striving for it. Can you imagine a life where our false accusations of sin will outnumber the accurate ones?

But without this grace working in our lives, we have no desire to offer it to our brothers and sisters who suffer under the schemes



of the enemy. So, this leaves in a state of simply being harlots birthing babies destined for death. "Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14) and "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

Whether or not we love little Betty is manifested by whether or not we are will to risk having our lives transformed so we can offer her protection from herself and from her enemy. Then we will step in, confront, nurture, and draw out the glory of a living God lovingly placed inside of little Betty to be revealed to a world that desperately needs it.

As always...

We appreciate your continued prayers and financial encouragement for this ministry. Our current needs include financial support for administrative staff, gainful employment for our men, and more bed space & staff for expansion. Please join us in declaring supernatural debt cancellation and for a mighty move of the Spirit's freeing work in the lives of His precious ones.