

August 2nd, 2009 – Would You Persuade Me to Be a Christian?

Sermon Application Questions

In the sermon, Coty brought out several images from Paul's speech concerning the state of the lost: Eyes shut/blind/in darkness, being under the power and authority of Satan, and being an accused prisoner on trial who is guilty of all charges. Which of these images is particularly helpful to you as you reflect on what your life would be like without Christ? Why?

Coty gave five images of salvation: having our eyes opened (moving from darkness to light), moving from the authority of Satan to the person of God, change from doing the deeds of your master the devil to doing deeds worthy of repentance, the change from being condemned in the courtroom to having all the accusations stamped "forgiven", and receiving an inheritance as part of the family of the One who owns all things. Which of these images is particularly helpful as you reflect on the grace you have received through faith in Christ?

Paul says that Jesus had to suffer and then rise from the dead if anyone was to be saved. Can you explain why both were necessary?

Paul says we must repent and have faith in God if we are to receive the benefits of Christ's death. What is repentance? What is faith?

Hint: Here are John Calvin's definitions of these terms: Repentance: "A real conversion of our life unto God, proceeding from sincere and serious fear of God; and consisting in the mortification of our flesh and the old man, and the quickening of the Spirit" (Institutes, 3.3.5). Faith: "A steady and certain knowledge of the Divine benevolence toward us, which, being founded on the truth of the free promise in Christ, is both revealed to our minds, and confirmed in our hearts, by the Holy Spirit" (Institutes 3.2.6).

Why is it important to preach the Gospel to yourself daily (or even more frequently)? How do you do this? Are there aids that you have found helpful? How can we as a small group help each other to do this more effectively?

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