

## The One Thing – A Changed View of God – Class Notes 2/4/24

The gospel does not just rescue us from God's wrath, but it is a total transformation of our lives. Yes, there is forgiveness! Yes, there is mercy, patience, and kindness, but when the Holy Spirit takes a dead heart and brings it to life, there is true transformation. One aspect of heart-change is a changed view of God. We move from the darkness of our own hearts and the culture that blinds us from knowing the true God, and so we make up gods of our own imagination. But with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we now start to see God for who he is. This true view of God should delight our hearts, impact our lives, and assure us that we belong to him.

1. A Lesson from Luther
  - a. Luther's view of God -> Luther's life before salvation
  - b. Luther's view of God -> Luther's life after salvation
  
2. A Changed View of God
  - a. If you asked a non-Christian his view of God, what would he say?
    - i. Someone who has "deconstructed" (abandoned the faith)
    - ii. An atheist / agnostic
    - iii. Someone who is indifferent
    - iv. Someone religious
    - v. An uncommitted/nominal Christian
  - b. It is a gift of God that we get to know him
  - c. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
  
3. God's Character: The Holiness of God
  - a. Taking God seriously
  - b. Believing what God says
  - c. Honoring his name
  - d. Fearing the King
    - i. Gladly hearing and following his direction
    - ii. Fighting temptation
    - iii. Accepting discipline
    - iv. God > all else

4. God's Character: The Kindness of God
  - a. Kindness, benevolence, graciousness, love, compassion, long-suffering
  - b. Fundamental to God's character: Exodus 34:6
  - c. God's kindness leads to salvation: Titus 3:3-5, Romans 2:4
  - d. Kindness to those who don't deserve it: Luke 15, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Isaiah 1:18, Zephaniah 3:17, Hosea 11:1-9, Isaiah 43:1-4, Isaiah 54:4-8
  - e. Jesus's interactions with people:
    - i. Nicodemus (John 3)
    - ii. The woman at the well (John 4)
    - iii. Rich young ruler (Mark 10:21)
    - iv. Matthew 11:28-30
    - v. And many more!
  
5. God's Character: The Faithfulness of God
  - a. God always keeps his promises
  - b. Proven faithfulness throughout history: promise to Abraham fulfilled in the Exodus/Conquest; in prophets; in Jesus Christ; Deuteronomy 7:6-9
  - c. Proven faithfulness in your life: consider how the Lord has proven faithful
  - d. Our assurance: God has made promises to us in his New Covenant. 1 Peter 2:9-10, Romans 8:28, Romans 5:1, Romans 8:1, Romans 8:28-39, Philippians 1:6, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 John 1:9, Hebrews 10:23
  
6. Impact of Your View of God on Outreach
  - a. God is for you: Follow him
    - i. Recall God's kindness, patience, and forgiveness. Don't let your sin prevent you from serving him. Confess, receive his forgiveness, and serve him. 1 John 1:9, Luke 15
  - b. You know God: Tell others
    - i. You know the true God and there is a world out there who does not know him. Enthusiastically present the truth of who this great God is.
    - ii. Tell others about his holiness, kindness, faithfulness and more. If someone does not understand God's kindness, he will not understand the gospel. If someone does not understand God's holiness, he will not understand the gospel.
    - iii. Explain why you serve and follow him, even in suffering. 1 Peter 2:21-25
  - c. God is Sovereign: Trust him
    - i. Jesus is Lord, he directs us to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)
    - ii. God saves through his people speaking his words (Romans 10:14-17)
    - iii. God is able to save; God is willing to save; be his instrument! (1 Corinthians 3:5-7)