

RESTORING THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION – Romans Road, Psalm 51 | Dave Geldart 2020-09-06

- GET Zoom going
 - Original Sound
 - Video and audio recording
- 1. Welcome
 - a. Announcements – TG women’s study – EDIE?
 - i. her Pass out fliers after prayer
- 2. Pray over time
 - a. Someone else?
 - b. Edie?
- 3. Start with a little interaction
 - a. What makes a church a church?
 - b. What is the core, irreducible difference between a church and a club
 - c. What is the central thing we rally around here at TG church
 - d. THE GOSPEL
- 4. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?
 - a. We don’t do much of these “right answer” kind of engagements, but this one is important
 - b. And whether you answer out loud or not, consider honestly HOW would you answer if someone asked?
- 5. The Gospel
 - a. THE HAND → CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS
 - b. The Hand extra credit → And rose from the dead
 - c. John 3:16 → God loved the world so much that he gave his only son so that whoever trust in him wouldn’t die, but would have eternal life.
- 6. Maybe you would have struggled to answer that clearly or accurately
 - a. That’s fine – good to notice!
 - b. OR Maybe you would have gotten that right on a test all day
- 7. But the next question comes right on the heels of it, and may be much harder.
 - a. SO WHAT?
 - b. What difference does that make to you?
- 8. Here, right answers begin to fail
 - a. Right answers can fall hollow
 - b. And reveal alarming disconnects within us
- 9. When was the last time The Gospel made you feel something?
 - a. For you
 - b. When’s the last time the Gospel moved you emotionally?
- 10. Now we’re getting to it
- 11. If you’re like many Christians these days, that last question is a stumper
 - a. If you relieve yourself from trying to look good with a “right answer” for that one, and allow yourself to honestly consider for yourself
 - b. It may have been a while
- 12. Lets pause here for a moment
 - a. In the psalms you’ll frequently see the word SELAH at the end of a section
 - b. This ancient Hebrew word simply means PAUSE AND REFLECT

- c. If the ancient Hebrews needed to be reminded to pause and reflect, these people who lived in an agrarian society, without any electricity
 - i. HOW MUCH MORE do we today who live such fast paced, hurried, and distracted lives need to be told to pause and reflect.
 - d. So pause and reflect.
 - i. When's the last time the Gospel moved you emotionally?
 - ii. SELAH
13. For some, you've never really heard or understood the Gospel presented in the Bible
- a. Never really experienced for yourself what it's like to hear the Good News and respond personally
14. For others who have followed Christ for longer amounts of time
- a. We subtly, but effectively, move on from the Gospel
 - b. And lose the joy of our salvation
 - c. Slowly. Slowly. Imperceptively. Until after months and years go by and it seems that all that's left is a stale faith laced with boredom. And religious apathy.
 - d. We've moved on from the Gospel.
 - e. We've forgotten our first love
 - f. We live depressed and anxious lives
 - g. And deep in the quiet of our hearts, we wonder if it'll ever get better.
 - h. If we'll ever feel anything real from God.
 - i. And so we either lean into hedonistic disconnection or stale religiousness
 - i. Both the alt right and the far left paths serve equally well
 - j. Anything else that gives direction as we're Desperately searching for the good life you've failed to experience with God.
15. But in either case, whether you've never put your trust in Jesus or have settled into a stale experience of God as a Christian, both of you are carrying a heavy burden
- a. The heaviest burden the human soul can ever carry
 - b. The soul crushing, depression producing, joy sapping burden
 - i. Of you sin and your shame
 - c. SELAH
16. The GOOD NEWS – the GOSPEL – is that there's hope. For you. Either way.
- a. There's a path forward that leads to real joy.
 - b. FOR YOU.
17. It starts with remembering.
18. The Bible teaches people that we're all sinful, all rebels deserving of the wrath of God
- a. Not a very popular message
 - b. But one most know deep within themselves is true
 - c. Sinfulness is far more pervasive than murder and stealing
 - i. I HAVENT MURDERED ANYONE
 - ii. The 10 Commandments in the OT show us clearly the core of God's rules for human flourishing
 - 1. Do not kill, steal, do not commit adultery
 - d. It's a settled decision to try to make our lives work on our own, apart from God and his rule
 - e. Yes, this sinful seed can grow into murder and theft and the "biggies"

- f. But they also subtly and perniciously spread and grow into a thousand other more socially acceptable sins like:
 - i. Greed and avarice
 - ii. Self-centeredness and Selfishness
 - iii. And 31 different baskin robins flavors of pride
 - iv. Even Godlessness.
 - 1. Doing your best to live a good (even moral) life w/o God in the picture.
 - 2. The perfect family. Serving at the soup kitchens, advocating for the poor.
 - a. BUT all without God
 - v. Sin grows here too
19. But Jesus clarified things even more to a group of religious people who thought they'd done pretty good following the rules.
- a. JC says (Matthew 5 in the famous sermon on the mount teaching) that isn't just shown in our actions, but even our thoughts and desires
 - b. If you want to be perfect, acceptable to God through your own purity
 - c. If you want to enter the Kingdom of heaven, you need to have v20 "Righteousness that surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law."
 - d. Do not murder also covers killing and demeaning people in your thoughts
 - e. Do not commit adultery also covers not having any lustful or impure thoughts about others
 - f. And the bar is higher still
 - g. It's not just abstaining from bad things, sin can be failure to do the good things!
 - i. LOVE your enemies
 - ii. Be self-sacrificial in giving, even when the other person is evil
 - iii. Don't do religious things to seem holy to others – that's sin
 - iv. Don't store up your treasure on this earth, but invest heavily in the HEAVENLY treasury
 - v. Don't fail to love anyone perfectly, just like JESUS would, ever. Even in your thoughts.
20. That bar is exceedingly and impossibly high.
- a. And if the Bible ended there, all would be lost.
 - b. You and I would have no hope at all.
21. Romans 3:23
- a. ALL have sinned and come short of the Glory of God
 - b. Rom 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death
 - i. Physical death
 - 1. As Adam and Eve discovered back in the Garden
 - 2. They would no longer live forever, but now would die
 - 3. Though not immediately
 - ii. Perhaps more damaging are the other deaths
 - 1. Relational death – the breakdown of relationships between us and others.
 - iii. Spiritual death – disconnection from relationship with God
 - 1. Distance
 - 2. Despair
 - 3. Hopelessness

- 4. Shame
- 5. And Wrath → eternal soul death
- c. The greatest terror in the universe
- d. Far, far more than any horror or slasher film man has ever created
- e. Eternal separation from our Creator God, and instead his wrath, and utter aloneness
- 22. BUT (rom 6:23 continues! The sentence isn't over)
 - a. but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord
 - b. Romans 5:8 declares, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
 - c. THIS is the gospel - the GOOD NEWS that what we could never do for ourselves, God has done for us in Christ
 - d. God himself moved heaven and earth to come here, and become small, as the person Jesus Christ
 - e. He lived the perfect life we should have lived, and went to the Cross to die the death we should have died for our sins
 - f. And then he rose from the grave on the third day SO THAT to all who trust in Him for salvation, he forgives completely, and gives them the mind-blowing RIGHT to become children of GOD
 - g. Adopted sons and daughters of the king of Heaven and earth
 - h. Though we used to be his enemies, ran from him, defied him, cursed him, spit upon him, and nailed him to a cross
 - i. He offers us the most incredible deal in the universe: the great switcheroo
 - ii. Even though you don't deserve it, because of his Great Love and his work on the cross, if you want, you can switch with Jesus.
 - 1. He gets your sin, you get his holiness
 - 2. He gets your death, you get his life
 - 3. He gets your shame, you get his HONOR
 - 4. He gets your wrath, you get his righteousness
 - i. [Romans 8:1](#) teaches us, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
- 23. That's the deal offered to each of us.
 - a. Have you ever taken it?
 - b. If not I implore you: DON'T DELAY
 - i. You don't know what your life will hold.
 - ii. Even what your next few hours will hold.
 - iii. NOW is the time to take this free gift while you still can.
 - iv. NOW is the day of salvation
 - c. [Romans 10:9](#), if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
 - d. [Romans 5:1](#) has this wonderful message, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - e. [Romans 8:38-39](#), "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

24. Many of you have already chosen to trust Jesus for your life
 - a. To become CHRISTIANS
 - b. Do you remember what it felt like when you first surrendered to Him?
 - c. Most people experience a deeply emotional sense of weight of their sin lifted
 - i. And a strong sense of God's love and nearness
 - ii. A sense of peace and hope that goes beyond logic or reason
 - d. Do you remember?
25. For me, it was 32 years ago – 82% of my life ago.
 - a. First came to Christ at 7
 - b. (Set the scene)
 - i. What I did, what I believed
 - c. I was sinful, and longed for God's salvation
 - d. I was right
26. But coming to Jesus, becoming a Christian, embracing the Gospel didn't completely take away my desire and ability to sin
 - a. In fact, I've lived in the most and deepest sin SINCE BECOMING A CHRISTIAN
 - b. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ
 - i. BUT I'VE EXPERIENCED so much failure and pain and SHAME AS A CHRISTIAN
 - c. It's not what I expected
 - d. Not what I hoped.
 - e. Confusion
 - f. Can you relate?
27. The sinfulness of a 7 yr old
 - a. Disobeyed my parents
 - b. Hurt my brother
28. The older I grew the more of that sinfulness I saw infecting my heart
 - a. Sensitivity and self-protectionism gave rise to control
 - b. A settled commitment to making my life work apart from relying on God
 - c. I must keep my world in control to stave off disaster, it's up to me
 - d. To emotional disconnection
 - e. To isolation and distancing
 - f. To sexual addictions
 - g. Just to name a few
29. King David, "a man after God's own heart" and one of the few folks on earth at the time filled with the HS.
 - a. Even as King of God's people, he experienced dramatic personal failure.
 - b. He lusted after a married woman, Bathsheba
 - c. Ultimately committed adultery with her
 - d. Then tried to cover it up through deceit
 - e. And when that didn't work, he had her husband, one of his most loyal soldiers, murdered.
 - f. Sin on massive scale
 - g. As a man of God. Leader. Holy Spirit filled. A man after God's own heart.
 - h. God had to trick him through a parable told by a prophet into finally admitting his sin

- i. But once he did, David finally gave up, confessed his sin and wrote it all into a public song that became a permanent chapter of the Holy Bible.

- i. **Check out what he wrote in PSALM 51**

- ii. V1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
²Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
 - iii. ...¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
¹¹Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
 - iv. ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
¹⁵Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

30. David, even though Christ hadn't fully displayed it yet, knew that God was merciful and unfailing in love, great in compassion, and one who could take away his sins.

31. He also asked God – begged God – to cleanse his heart and restore to him the JOY of God's salvation. So that he could tell others about it, sing praises.

32. How long has it been since you've lived in the JOY of your salvation?

- a. How long since your lips really praised him, spoke of him, out of a place of genuine gratitude for who God is and what he's done for you?

33. IF you're like many today, it's been a long time.

- a. You may have experienced real joy and zeal early on in your Christian life, but that fire has cooled.
- b. Deep down, you feel more like a failure than a Follower
 - i. You've settled into the quiet desperation of the American life
 - ii. Distracted and bored at the same time.
 - 1. With everything – including Church and God
- c. And now you are frequently going through the motions.
- d. Not really feelin' it with God and church and ministry.
- e. Overwhelmed would be closer to your life than Overjoyed
- f. And you know you shouldn't be feeling this way. And you feel BAD about it
- g. You're ASHAMED that you're not better, farther along, more holy
- h. You're ashamed that you're still struggling significantly with hidden sins
- i. You're ashamed that you're not a better Christian

34. And you think God must be pretty disappointed with you too.
 - a. And so you respectfully keep your distance from him
 - b. Put on the smile at church.
 - c. Say you're doing OK.
35. But it's been a long. Long time, since you've experienced the joy of your salvation.
 - a. And you're afraid it'll never get better.
 - b. SELAH**
36. Brother. Sister. I get it. That's my story too.
 - a. Like I said before, even though I became a Christian as a boy and grew up in a loving Christian home
 - b. I struggled significantly as a teenager and young adult with fear, control, and sexual sins.
 - c. All while I was a leader in my youth group
 - d. Leading worship at retreats
 - e. Even leading LIFE Groups and discipling men
37. Inside, I still carried a heavy weight of sin and shame
 - a. And I was stuck lugging them everywhere.
 - b. Even as a Christian
38. The Burden of sin and Shame is a HEAVY weight to carry
 - a. NOT just for the lost
 - b. BUT for the believer as well
 - c. So many of us are staggering under the crushing weight of our own sinfulness and shame.
 - i. Made doubly heavy by the thought that Christians are supposed to be freed from their sins
 - ii. But even though we no longer have to carry our sin and shame as Christians, we still so often do. It's still our default
39. The turning point for me has involved something pretty simple, but takes some getting used to.
40. REMEMBERING THE GOSPEL
41. PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO MYSELF
 - a. We've already shared how the Gospel is the Good news that God has loved and redeemed us in spite of our sinfulness and rebellion.
 - b. For many Christians, the Gospel can begin to fade into the background. Can feel like the thing that I did to get "in" a while back. And now I'm on to the real stuff of Christian living.
 - c. No, as pastor CJ Mahaney has famously said: The Gospel isn't just the intro class to get you on your Christian life track, it's the entire building.
 - d. We lose the joy of our salvation when we subconsciously MOVE ON from the Gospel.
 - i. From remembering – and discovering with increasing clarity
 1. Just how sinful and needy I am
 2. And just how Holy God is
 - ii. Those 2 lines diverge like lines at right angles, getting father and farther apart.
 - e. But only the GOSPEL can continue to bridge the gap
 - f. So, it turns out, Christians need to be preached the Gospel too. Repeatedly
42. Col 1:23 – Paul, a sinner turned missionary tells a group of Christians
 - a. don't be moved from the gospel!
43. Rom 1:15 – preach the gospel to Christians (also 1 Cor 15)

- a. Notice, Paul was excited to preach the Gospel to CHRISTIANS.
 - b. Because the human heart is forgetful
 - c. And even Christians need to remember over and over again who God is, and what he's done for us.
 - d. We can develop this into a spiritual habit
 - e. Preaching the Gospel to ourselves daily
 - i. Every time we feel the weight of sin and shame
 - ii. We stop and preach the Gospel to ourselves
 - 1. Remind your soul that God loves you
 - 2. And that he's provided a way for you to live free and forgiven
 - 3. And that he invites you again to lay down your burdens
 - 4. Give these weights to him
 - 5. And walk free → into Joy
44. Tallgrass family,
- a. What if we experienced a revival of Joy in our church?
 - b. What if we were continually taking off our burdens of sin and shame
 - c. And living in the fresh reality of the Gospel
 - d. Perpetually giving thanks for God's great love and grace that saved a wretch like me
45. How might that change YOUR life?
- a. How might that affect Tallgrass Church?
46. Whether you're not yet a follower of Christ or you've been following him for decades,
- a. Hear this morning that your God wants to lift off the crippling burden of your sin and shame
 - b. He wants to lead you to a truly fulfilling life reconnected with Him
 - c. And filled with deep and real JOY and peace
 - d. Even now, in your pandemic, kids on zoom, or lonely in your apartment life
 - e. You don't need to live under the heavy burden of sin and shame
 - f. Bring them to Jesus today, lay them down,
 - i. Let him take away your sin and shame
 - g. and preach the Gospel to yourself over and over and over and over
 - i. so that live again in the joy of your salvation
47. We'll end with an outside-the-box exercise. At least for TG
- a. We're going to read the Gospel in poetic form
 - b. "Never be content with your current grasp of the gospel. The gospel is life-permeating, world-altering, universe-changing truth. It has more facets than a diamond. Its depths man will never exhaust." -CJ Mahaney
 - c. Sometimes hearing things a different way helps our minds reconsider them
 - i. Like a lozenge, place it under your tongue to slowly get all the goodness out of it
48. From GP
- a. **Buy A Gospel Primer by Milton Vincent**
 - i. \$10 today (5 copies)
 - b. I need reading volunteers (10) – read 2 sections each
 - c. It's attached online on our Church in the Park event for today at the bottom
 - d. For some you'll engage best by reading along

- e. Others of you will engage best by listening
- f. Either way, I invite you to hear again the Good News – the Gospel for you and for me
- g. READ [8 min]

Beholding the heavens,
 I now understand
 God measured them all
 with the breadth of His hand.¹
 He fashioned the trillions
 of stars in the sky,²
 The sun and the moon
 He established on high.³
 All heaven and earth,
 which He made in six days,⁴
 Show daily and nightly
 His merit of praise.

So wondrously caring⁶
 is God ev'ry day,
 Creating,⁷ sustaining
 my life ev'ry way.⁸
 Each breath I intake,
 ev'ry beat of my heart,
 All pleasures well-tasted
 are His to impart.⁹
 Indeed, for such blessings
 He should be adored
 And honored supremely
 as eminent Lord.¹⁰

In fact, for this purpose
 He brought me to be,
 That I might His glory
 and kindness see¹¹
 And cherish Him fully
 in all of my days,¹²
 Obeying with pleasure
 whatever He says,¹³
 Fulfilling the calling
 He's laid upon me
 To show forth His glory
 deliberately.¹⁴

Yet I could not fail God
 much worse than I've done.
 Ignoring His glory,
 for mine I have run.
 I've spurned a life
 under His wisdom and care,
 Begrudged Him the throne
 and pretended me there.¹⁵
 A prideful and lust-laden
 path I have trod,
 Transgressing all Ten great
 Commandments of God.¹⁶

My foolish rebellion
 gives God ev'ry right
 To damn me with haste
 to the mis'erable plight
 Of terrible judgments
 in His Lake of Fire,¹⁷
 Where wrath is most fierce
 and will never expire.¹⁸
 With wickedest sinners
 I truly should know
 The worst of Hell's furies
 for failing God so.

So this is my status
 and these are my flaws
 Apart from Christ Jesus
 and His saving cause:
 I carry sin's guilt
 and am gripped by sin's pow'r,¹⁹
 Held fast to its
 various lusts ev'ry hour,²⁰
 Deserving of flames,
 both within and without,²¹
 And sliding t'ward Hell
 as I toss all about,²²

Too reprobate²³ even
to play a small part
In clearing my record
or changing my heart²⁴
To pacify wrath
and be worthy of grace,
To make myself lovely²⁵
and win God's embrace.
Completely condemned by
God's Law in its whole,²⁶
I've nothing to offer
to ransom my soul.²⁷

Amazing it is, when I
stop to regard,
That God would consent
to an anguish so hard,
Surrend'ring His Son³²
unto mayhem and death,³³
To torturous writhing
'til His final breath.
'Why does God forsake Me?'
alone Jesus cried;³⁴
Yet God left Him hanging
until He had died.

Now after Christ died
He was placed in a tomb,³⁹
Which first was a grave,
but then served as a womb,
Travailing and quaking⁴⁰
the day He was raised⁴¹
And brought forth by God
to be handled and praised.⁴²
The Firstborn from death⁴³
on that day emerged He
With power to save
to the utmost degree.⁴⁴

But wonder of wonders,
so great to behold,²⁸
My God chose to save me²⁹
with method so bold.
What I could not render,
God fully has done,
And doing, He rendered it
all through His Son.³⁰
He sent Christ to die
on the cross for my sin
To suffer my anguish,
my pardon to win.³¹

That Jesus was willing
His life to lay down,³⁵
Be scourged³⁶ and insulted
and wear thorny crown³⁷
For one such as I
who had spited God so,
Amazes and blesses
and makes me to know
That greater a lover
is no man than He,
Who laid down His life
for a sinner like me.³⁸

At God's own right hand
Christ now reigns from on high,⁴⁵
A Friend in high places
to sinners⁴⁶ who cry⁴⁷
To Him for forgiveness,
their evils confessed.
He gives them a pardon
and then makes them blessed.⁴⁸
As Prince He is Savior⁴⁹
to all who believe,⁵⁰
Who come to Him humbly
His grace to receive.

Now when my time came
and to Jesus I cried,
He gave me the pardon⁵¹
for which I had sighed,
He cleansed me completely
from wrongs I had done,⁵²
Released me from bondage
to sins, ev'ry one.
He shattered sin's chains
which had held me before,
And thus made me free
not to sin any more.⁵³

A child of the Father
He made me to be⁵⁴
And gave me the Spirit
as His guarantee⁵⁵
That, being God's child,
I will one day obtain
A heavenly treasure
that never will wane.⁵⁶
While in me, the Spirit
gives power⁵⁷ and love⁵⁸
And sweet premonitions
of glory above.⁵⁹

In saving, God also
did justify me,⁶⁰
Accounting me righteous
by His own decree,⁶¹
Declaring me guiltless
of all of my sin,
And bringing His wrath
against me to an end.⁶²
This wrath Christ appeased⁶³
in full brunt on the Tree,
When, bearing my sin,
He endured it for me.⁶⁴

So now God relates
to me only with grace⁶⁵ –
The former wrath banished
without any trace!⁶⁶
And each day I'm made
a bit more as I should,
His grace using all things
to render me good.⁶⁷
Yes, even in trials
God's grace abounds too
And does me the good
He assigns it to do.⁶⁸

And when I am sinning,
God's grace does abound,⁶⁹
Insuring my justified
status is sound.
No wrath is awakened
in God at my sin,
Because Christ appeased it⁷⁰ –
to say so again.
God's heart pulses only
with passionate grace,
Which jealously wants me
back in His embrace.⁷¹

God does not require
even that I confess,
Before He desires
His forgiveness to press.
Forgiveness has been
in His heart all along;
And when I approach Him
to make right my wrong,
He runs up to greet me
and draws to me near,⁷²
Embracing and kissing⁷³
and ready to clear.⁷⁴

God does see my sins
and He grieves at them so,⁷⁵
For when I am sinning,
His love I don't know.⁷⁶
He even will send me
some heart-rending pain,
So I'll learn new ways
and His holiness gain.
His disciplines always
are with love imbued,⁷⁷
A love that seeks ever
my ultimate good.

So this is my story;
ongoing it is.
How shall I thank God
for this gospel of His?
A gift that keeps giving,⁷⁸
the gospel confers
The bounty of heaven
each time I rehearse.
Deserve it? I don't
on my holiest day;
But this is salvation,
and herein I'll stay.⁷⁹

49. PRAY:

- a. Spirit of the Living God, restore to us the JOY of our salvation
- b. Lift off the sin and shame we're carrying today
- c. And tune our hearts to sing your grace
- d. Amazing grace HOW Sweet the sound
- e. That saved a wretch like me