

The Gospel of Self

Matt. 16:13-23

The Gospel of Self

- Peter's great confession is made by Peter the great stumbling block
- Peter's character is revealed on these two occasions
 - The part that acknowledges the Gospel
 - The part that thinks his opinion is part of it

The Gospel of Self

- Our current society is obsessed with the self
 - The unofficial philosophy of our day (postmodernism and its inherent relativism) establishes the self as the ultimate standard for truth for the individual
 - Our economic system (capitalism) depends on the enrichment of the self regardless of the cost to others
 - Our government establishes the individual as the basic unit of election

The Gospel of Self

- “Two centuries ago, a somewhat obscure Scotsman named Alexander Fraser Tytler (1747-1813) made this profound observation: ‘A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the majority discovers it can vote itself largess out of the public treasury. After that, the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits with the result the democracy collapses because of the loose fiscal policy ensuing, always to be followed by a dictatorship, then a monarchy.’ (“The Daily Oklahoman”; December 9, 1951, Elmer T. Peterson)

What Is The Gospel Of The Self?

- The gospel of self is when we make ourselves the standard of judgment
- The gospel of self is when we decide on our own what is right or wrong
- The gospel of self is when we interpret the Scriptures to fit our own preconceptions, and not allow the Scriptures to change our thinking
- The gospel of self is when we allow our upbringing, society, culture, and education to establish what we believe about the Word of God
- The gospel of self is when we think this sermon and all others apply to someone else

The Scriptures And The Self

- Prov. 3:5-8 - “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.”

The Scriptures And The Self

- James 4:10, 13-16 - “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up... 13 Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that. 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.”

The Scriptures And The Self

- The dangers of the gospel of self
 - The darkened mind
 - Rom. 1:18-23
 - Choosing to live in sin
 - Rom. 6:15-21
 - Sin begins with the self
 - James 1:13-16

The Scriptures And The Self

- Examples
 - Israel in the Period of the Judges
 - Judges 2:10-23, 21:25
 - Jeroboam, son of Nebat
 - 1Kings 12:26-33; 2Kings 17:21-23
 - Ananias and Sapphira
 - Acts 5:1-10
 - Simon the sorcerer
 - Acts 8:9-24

Application

- When people begin to think in terms of themselves and not in terms of God, they start to follow self and not Him
- Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, did nothing of His own accord on Earth, but only the will of His Father in Heaven
 - John 5:19-30
- Even in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - Mark 14:35-36 - “He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. 36 And He said, Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”

Application

- We are to imitate Christ
 - 1Cor. 11:1 - “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”
 - As He never allowed Himself to distract Him from the will of His Father, so we are not to allow our self to cause us to stumble from His path