

SPOTLIGHT

Good News Chapel Monthly Newsletter » Looking to the Wonderful Counselor // Spiritual Buffet // YSC: "The Gospel and Personal Evangelism"

"And the Winner is..."

By Sam Lee

For those who will be reading this, I apologize in advance for making this read more for my generation of brothers and sisters.

I'm writing to you on Wed., November 3rd, 2010 at 12:50 am. Most of the results are in for the midterm elections and I cannot say that I am too ecstatic about the results.

I'm not going to list down the propositions and candidates that I selected here. Nor am I going to discuss any of the policies or fiscal impacts of anything that has been passed. I do want to write about my opinion and questions on my generation of Christian voters though.

As I sat down in my car this morning, all I thought about was the results that would come out today. As a Christian citizen you can voice your opinion and have it count. Unless you're one of the few who attend city council meetings and speak out during open sessions, or have made a citizens arrest recently, I don't believe there is an easier way to practice our civil duties than to cast a vote.

I've heard the back-and-forth rant about prop 19-- the only proposition that most people my age actually like talking about. After a few exchanges, these interests and discussions turn into cracks about pineapple express or that stunt the fat dude from the movie Hangover pulled on the Bill Maher Show. You can google it later AFTER service.

As Christians, shouldn't we take advantage of voting opportunities? The one time we are allowed to make a big shift in the way our government and lives work, we decide to brush it off

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Looking to the Wonderful Counselor

By Keziah Kim

Your friend's child was just killed in an accident and has stopped coming to church. A teenage girl in your youth group told you she was pregnant and is considering an abortion. Your friend just confessed his enslavement to internet pornography. Your brother is struggling with depression and is contemplating suicide. Your co-worker, barely scraping by, just lost his job and is angry at God. Your neighbor's husband left her for another woman and she refuses to forgive him.

In each of these situations, what would you do? What would you say? These are real life situations that happen all around us every day. Though I wanted to turn a blind eye to the sad reality of this world, I couldn't deny it. I come from a broken home, witnessed abuse, went through periods of depression and contemplated suicide. I wanted to believe that the world outside of my home was better. And boy did it hit hard when I found out how wrong I was! In a fallen world, suffering is inevitable and problems cannot be avoided. But in the midst of these realities, why do people do what they do? Why is your co-worker angry with God?

Why has your friend stopped attending church?

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YSC: "The Gospel and Personal Evangelism"

By John Shin

Welcome to the first edition of Young Scholars Corner! Together we will dive into different topical books that I believe will transform our church by renewing our mind with biblical truth. As GNC recently welcomed back our two mission teams (Mississippi and India), we had the chance to hear testimonies and messages about evangelism and the many lost people in the world who do not know Jesus Christ. We all need to be part of missions whether we are sending people or going to the mission field. We also need to practice evangelism but many believers do not share the gospel with others at all. I suggest and review a book that I also recommended to our mission teams at their debriefing retreat. The book is called "The Gospel and Personal Evangelism" by Mark Dever. The author has been a pastor at Capital Hills Baptist Church in Washington D.C. for over 15 years and for two weeks was a guest chaplain for the US Senate.

The most common reason I hear about why people don't evangelize is because they don't know enough about the Bible, or don't know what to say. This encourageds people who overcome those fears. The book does a great job as it walks you through the common fears people have about evangelism, the common mistakes we make and the common misconceptions about the gospel. The book chapters are actually divided by questions that are asked about the gospel and evangelism such as "why don't we evangelize, what is evangelism, and what should we do after evangelism".

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and let it move on to the next two or four years. The cycle repeats and then we complain that everything is upside down in the economy, the gas prices are too high, taxes are crazy, and that no one wants to really drive a 100hp hybrid.

It seems that so much of my generation is lost within the NOW, and we don't take into consideration the effects we have for our LATER. As Christian citizens in the U.S., shouldn't we be doing our part in ensuring that our core and moral values still lie somewhere in the order of all things? When did we all become so lazy that we can't spend ten minutes out of our day to go the nearest voting booth to mark some names down? Would making a facebook page or a voting application for smart phones make it easier?

I have to admit I love seeing GNC and its growth in volunteering at places like homeless outreach and the orphanage. I feel like these are all things that we do not do because we are obligated, but because our faith allows us to take great strides and make a difference in lives through Christ.

I just pray that my generation of Christians would not be so critical and quick to judge on politics and social issues. That we can be attentive and patient listeners who consider all things and are able to decide what is best by examining the God's word and taking in the opinions of our greater educated deacons, elders, married couples, and pastors.

I hope that we won't limit ourselves in displaying the work of God in our lives only within the borders of our church and that we would be able to live out Christ in every aspect of our lives just as we were called to do. †

cont. of "Looking to the Wonderful Counselor" by Keziah Kim

The pressures in life, all in God's control and care, are inevitable but how we respond under heat reveals what is in our hearts. Scripture makes it clear that the fruit we see on the outside is directly correlated to what is inside (Mark 7:21-22). Jesus also talks about the good tree that produces good fruit and the bad tree that produces bad fruit. Biblical counseling is about addressing people's root systems or heart issues in order to help them change and respond to life rightly.

The heart (or the entire inner person: desire, will, mind and intentions) is mentioned over a thousand times in the Bible. The Bible is sufficient to address all matters of the soul! The foundation of Biblical counseling is built upon the truth that God's Word is "living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword...and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). The inspired Word is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16) and contains everything we need pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

Now don't misunderstand! Biblical counseling is not about delivering a system of change or about throwing out Scripture passages that relate to a person's problem or need. It is about pointing them to a Redeemer! It is about bringing people closer to the Person of Jesus Christ, Who binds the broken-hearted, sets captives free and breaks the chains of prisoners (Isa. 61:1-2)! The goal of Biblical counseling is not necessarily pain relief or that circumstances improve. That cannot be guaranteed. Rather, through the ministry of Scripture and the Holy Spirit, the goal is helping people become more like Christ! While weeping with those who weep and rejoicing with those who rejoice, it is coming alongside people to help them live life the way God intended: completely devoted to worshipping the one true God (Exod. 20:3) and doing all things for His glory (1 Cor. 10:31).

Other than the fact that I really desire to help people, one of the main reasons why I am studying Biblical counseling is because I believe that it is a means of fulfilling the Great Commission. Jesus commanded that we go into all the nations to make disciples of Christ. That's what Biblical counseling is all about! It is meeting people where they are at, whether in seasons of grief or in struggle with sin and speaking the truth in love, so that they might be more like Jesus Christ. Does that mean you have to be formally trained in Biblical counseling to help someone? No! If you are a follower of Christ and dwell richly in His Word, you are "able to admonish [counsel] one another" (Rom. 15:14; Col. 3:16). It is expected of the members of the church to be admonishing one another, tenderly coming alongside one another, pointing one another to our God Who saves! I pray that Good News Chapel will be a body that follows in the steps of her Wonderful Counselor and loves her members in the way that He exemplified for us! †

cont. of "YSC: The Gospel and personal Evangelism" by John Shin

There is a chapter in the book titled, "What is the Gospel". Here Mark Dever does a clever thing. He tells you what is NOT the gospel, and then teaches you the correct way to teach or share the gospel. For example, there is a section that teaches that Jesus' role in our life is not just to be our friend but He is so much more-- the final sacrifice for our sins. His role has much more meaning if we understand Him in that light.

The last chapter is one that we all should read. It is my favorite since it teaches and exhorts us to evangelize and Dever explains "why" we should evangelize. He teaches us about obedience to God's plan and commands and our love for God being the main thrust to focus our lives on His needs rather than ours. Reading this chapter will remind us and teach us to share the message of salvation to all our friends, co-workers and family who are lost without a relationship with Christ through the cross.

This book is very easy to read, simple and straight to the point. It will encourage you to evangelize, overcome doubt and provide tips on how to share the gospel. Let us become a church that is a beacon of light to our community and grow because of new believers coming to know the Lord. Here is a quote from the book: "We ourselves have been the objects of his saving love, so how very appropriate it is for us to show such love to others." †