

MESSAGE FROM GOD'S LIFE-BUILDING WORD

The [False] Gospel of Me

October 18, 2020

The Travis Ferguson Pastoral Dictionary of Opinions, Thoughts, and Meanderings defines the “Gospel of Me” as:

gospel · of · me | 'gäspəl əv mē

noun/verb

1. A gimme gimme Gospel that wants all the good God has to offer without any of the sacrifice.
2. A gotta gotta Gospel where an individual looks to his or her own self for salvation, rather than to Jesus.

IT IS VAIN, O MEN, THAT YOU SEEK WITHIN
YOURSELVES THE CURE FOR YOUR MISERIES.
ALL YOUR INSIGHT ONLY LEADS YOU TO THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS NOT IN YOURSELVES
THAT YOU WILL DISCOVER THE TRUE AND THE
GOOD.

-BLAISE PASCAL-

G.P.S. – GROW, PRAY, STUDY GUIDE

This week I invite you to use a spiritual habit called “Lectio Divina” (Spiritual Reading) through the verses used in today’s message.

Lectio Divina

Ruth Haley Barton, *Sacred Rhythms*, (Westmont, IL; InterVarsity Press, 2006) 59-61

Preparation/Silencio: With your eyes closed, let your body relax, and allow yourself to become consciously aware of God’s presence with you. Express your willingness to hear from God in these moments by using a brief prayer such as “Come Lord Jesus” or “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

Read/Lectio: Listen for the word or phrase that is addressed to you. Turn to the passage and begin to read slowly, pausing between phrases and sentences. As you read, listen for a word or phrase that strikes you or catches your attention. Allow a moment of silence, repeating that word or phrase softly to yourself, pondering it and savoring it as though pondering the word of a loved one.

- Passage to be read is:
- The word/phrase is ...

Reflect/Meditatio: How is my life touched by this word?

What is it in my life right now that needs to hear this word?

If the passage is a story, perhaps ask yourself: Where am I in this scene? What do I hear as I imagine myself in the story or hear these words addressed specifically to me? How do the dynamics of this story connect with my own life experience?

Respond/Oratio: What is my response to God based on what I have read and encountered?

Read the passage one more time, listening for your own deepest and truest response. In silence after the reading, allow your prayer to flow spontaneously from your heart as you enter a personal dialogue with God.

Rest/Contemplatio: Rest in the Word of God. In this final reading you are invited to release and return to a place of rest in God.

Resolve/Incarnatio: Incarnate (live out) the Word of God. As you emerge from this place of personal encounter with God to life in the company of others, resolve to carry this word with you and to live it out in the context of daily life and activity.

Day 1: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 2:12*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 2: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 2:13*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 3: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 2:14*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 4: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 2:15-16*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 5: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 2:17-18*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

Day 6: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 2:19-30*; Phrase:

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

GOING DEEPER & NEXT WEEK

- **Next Week:** *Philippians 3:1-11*, “Where Real Confidence Comes From” with Pastor Richard Burkey
- **Note:** Next week we will have the Rite of Confirmation at the 9:15am service.