

Christ-Centered Clarity: Putting On Your Gospel Glasses

Variety of Ephesians Passages and Genesis 1-3

Emphasis: Christ is our only hope amidst a hopeless world!

Introduction:

Do you ever find yourself discouraged or disheartened when you watch the news? Does it seem like the world is becoming increasingly distant from Christ and heading in a troubling direction every day? Why does this happen? And is there a solution? Will new government policies, ending world hunger, achieving world peace, resolving racial divisions, or curing diseases fix this fundamental issue? The straightforward answer is no. We live in a world where it's painfully clear that something is amiss. Both Christians and non-Christians alike acknowledge that things are not as they should be. While we easily recognize that a problem exists, we often misunderstand the nature of that problem—and consequently, we miss the mark on identifying the solution. Maybe if everyone was just a little more accepting or generous or caring or patient or open or welcoming this world would get back to how it should be. I mean this has got to be someone's fault... right? If we can just pinpoint who to blame, we could fix things, right? Unfortunately, it's not that simple. The core issue isn't just about behaviors or attitudes; it's about the condition of the human heart. The Bible tells us that the root of all our problems is sin. Sin has corrupted not only individuals but the entire creation. Romans 3:23 states, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This fundamental separation from God is what leads to the brokenness we see in the world. No amount of human effort or policy change can rectify this.

Government policies can certainly help address societal issues to some extent, but they cannot change the human heart. Ending world hunger, achieving world peace, resolving racial divisions, or curing diseases are noble goals, but they don't address the underlying human condition that causes these problems. This doesn't mean we shouldn't strive to make the world a better place. As followers of Christ, we are called to be salt and light in the world (Matthew 5:13-16), reflecting God's love and grace. However, we must recognize that our ultimate hope isn't in human efforts but in the redemptive work of Christ. Christ is the only one who can save souls and restore everything to Himself. It is In Him, we find hope and strength amidst a broken world. Let's remember that the solution to the world's problems is not found in human efforts but in the transformative power of Jesus Christ. As we long for His return to make all things news, let us patiently hold fast to Christ and find our greater hope in Him.

Continued on the other side

I. Christ-Centered Clarity: Putting On Your Gospel Glasses

1. God's Good Design
 - a. Perfection of The Garden
 - b. Brokenness of This World
2. Where We Are At - Developing a Gospel Worldview
 - a. Broken But Not Without Hope
3. How Our Worldview Impacts Our Choices and Behavior
 - a. How We View Relationships
 - b. How We View The Church
 - c. How We View The World
4. Hope has 5 Letters - Jesus

