



Don't miss it this season!

Why we really ought to celebrate Christmas.

In previous chapels we talked about several important truths that pertain to every one of us:

- 1) You and I were created for a *relationship* with God.
- 2) Our sin separated us from that *relationship*.
- 3) There is nothing that we can do to reconcile this *relationship* on our own.
- 4) Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin.
- 5) Jesus rose from the dead that we might have eternal life

Today, we want to look at the final piece of the message of the “Good News“ (the Gospel). The reason why we have started our chapels with what will be six pieces to the Gospel message is threefold: 1) we wanted to establish a level playing field. Every one of us comes to this discussion with their own set of lenses. These lenses have been shaped by religion, culture, personal experience, and other outside factors. In order to get us all on the same page, we needed to look at what the Bible says is the *good news*. 2) we wanted to unlink the *good news* from the American dream, from religiosity (and our performance), and our perceived notions of “right, “ “wrong, “ “just, “ and “fair.” This is why we took the time to establish just how bad our starting point really is. 3) finally, we wanted to establish the basis for everything else we will be talking about in chapel: Christianity is about relationship. It's not about performance. It's not about measuring up. It's also not about religion or emotional events. It's about relationship. Period. As believers, we don't ever grow out of the Gospel, we grow into it.

Jesus spoke often of **eternal life** (John 3:15–16; 4:14; 5:39; 6:40). He spoke about the importance of it; he spoke about our need for it; he spoke about its value for us. But for most of the Gospel of John, he seemed to attract many with its message without ever defining it. Many people assume that eternal life is going to heaven when you die. But that's not what Jesus said. In John 17:3, Jesus said, ***“This is eternal life, that they may know You...”*** Eternal life is to know God. Eternal life is to experience a reconciled relationship with God. According to the Bible, eternal life is given to those who will turn from their sin by placing faith in what Jesus has done for them. The Bible describes the act of turning from sin as repentance. It does not mean a person will be sinless. It means they desire God more than sinful activity. Repentance was at the heart of Jesus' first message. ***“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*** (Matthew 4:17).

Key Truth: Jesus offers eternal life (or a reconciled relationship) to those who will repent of their sin by placing faith in Jesus Christ.

Make it personal:

- * What have you come to believe about “eternal life“? Prior to chapel today, how would you have defined it? How has today's chapel changed your perspective?
- * What do you do with the *good news*? How will you apply it to your own life? Asked differently, how do you relate to God today? Are you *in* relationship with Him?
- * Has there ever been a point in your life where you “repented“ by placing your faith in what Jesus has done for you? If yes, how are you living your life in response to that *today*? If no, what keeps you from entering into relationship?



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