

My Favorite Things: Taking God at His Word

Week 1: Colossians 1:13,14

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

My Favorite Things - Taking God At His Word

Week 1: CLAIM THE GOOD NEWS BY FAITH It has been said that a stone lying in the sun can't help but grow warm. In the same way, as we learn to expose our stony hearts to the warmth and light of the Gospel, we can't help but be transformed. We should be preaching this Good News to ourselves and others constantly, so that no matter what our struggles and fears may be, we can be encouraged, strengthened and changed by hearing God's voice repeating these eternal truths to our hearts again and again. All God asks is that we continue to draw near to Him in repentance and faith through the cross of Jesus Christ. Steve Childers

My Favorite Things: M&M's Life Verse

M&M's Life Verse

Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

My Favorite Things - Taking God At His Word

Week 1:

Remember your place. Your life no longer belongs to you. Your story is no longer just your story. You have been welcomed to the kingdom of Another, and your life is part of the plan and purposes of that kingdom. Don't allow yourself to begin to think that you are in the center of your universe. Remember, you have been chosen to live for the glory of Another, and when you do, you will reach levels of personal contentment and joy that aren't possible any other way. Paul Tripp

My Favorite Things - Taking God At His Word

Week 1 You inherited a kingdom. You live in it now, though it is unseen. One day we will behold the King in all His glory and His kingdom will come. On that day, King Jesus will say, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”

Until then, let us be about our Father's business and continue to proclaim the Kingdom Cry:

“How goes the world?”

“The world goes not well, but the Kingdom comes!”

“To the King! To the Kingdom! To the Restoration!”

Week 2 GOD MAKES A COVENANT

JEREMIAH 32:38-41

They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.

My Favorite Things - Taking God At His Word

Week 2 God's Hesed Love

ISAIAH 54:10

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

God's loving-kindness (*hesed*) is that sure love which will not let Israel go. Not all Israel's persistent waywardness could ever destroy it. Though Israel be faithless, yet God remains faithful still. This steady, persistent refusal of God to wash his hands of wayward Israel is the essential meaning of the Hebrew word which is translated loving-kindness.

Hesed – lovingkindness, mercy, grace, steadfast love, unfailing love, loyal love; not an abstract feeling; always entails practical action on behalf of another; rock-solid faithfulness, love so enduring that it persists beyond any sin or betrayal. Hesed is one of the Lord's most treasured characteristics. Hesed is related to the covenant – God's promise, His vow to make us His people; that He will be our God... "It combines commitment with sacrifice. Hesed is one-way love. Love without an exit strategy.

My Favorite Things: Taking God at His Word

Week 3: Hosea 14:1,2

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall. Take words with you and return to the LORD.

My Favorite Things - Taking God at His Word

Week 3 Psalm 103:10-12

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

My Favorite Things - Taking God At His Word

Week 3

Jesus said, *"Repent and believe the good news"*. Repentance and faith are how we come to God the first time as unbelievers to be saved from sin's penalty. Repentance and faith is also the God-ordained process by which we are to return to Jesus continually - daily, moment by moment - to be saved from sin's power and have our hearts transformed...Through repentance, we pull our heart affections away from our idols; by faith we put them back on Jesus. Repentance is only half of our responsibility in transformation - the negative, defensive side of the equation. The other responsibility given to us is the positive offense strategy called faith: learning how to set the affections of our hearts and minds on Christ.

Steve Childers

My Favorite Things - Taking God At His Word

Week 3: We are not permitted to nurse a sense of guilt: we must fully and completely accept and embrace his forgiveness and love. Guilt feeling and inferiority feeling before God are expressions of selfishness, of self-centeredness: we give greater importance to our little sinful self than to His immense and never-ending love. We must surrender our guilt and inferiority to Him; His goodness is greater than our badness. *We must accept His joy in loving and forgiving us.* It is a healing grace to surrender our sinfulness to His mercy. Thomas Merton

What is sin? It is the glory of God not honored. The holiness of God not revered. The greatness of God not admired. The power of God not praised. The truth of God not sought. The wisdom of God not esteemed. The beauty of God not treasured. The goodness of God not savored. The faithfulness of God not trusted. The commandments of God not obeyed. The justice of God not respected. The wrath of God not feared. The grace of God not cherished. The presence of God not prized. The person of God not loved. That is sin.

John Piper

Week 3

It is so true, as the Book says, that all things work together for our good, even our sins and vices. He takes our sins on himself, and while he drives them out of us with a whip of scorpions, he will yet make them work his good ends. He defeats our sins, make them prisoners, forces them into the service of good, and chains them like galley slaves to the rowing benches of the gospel ship. He makes them work toward salvation for us.

from The Curate's Awakening by George MacDonald

Week 4: Grace Moves Me Out of Me

Isaiah 52:1,2

Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city...Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, O Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

Week 4 Grace Moves Me Out of Me

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness...

My Favorite Things - Taking God At His Word

I'm not going to live my life for safety. I want to see God use me somehow, for something other than feeling better. This isn't about me just getting better and doing better at what I am doing so more and more people like me. There is a Kingdom, and God has a call on your life. Grace moves me out of myself to love God and to love others. It moves me out of me.

Josiah Bancroft