

PRAISE ALERT

January 12, 2009

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LIFE IS ALL ABOUT JESUS!

I love the gospel! Because of the gospel we can approach the throne of God with confidence asking God to glorify His name through His Son. The gospel provides hope which gives birth to faith and love in our lives. The gospel also gives us vision in how to live our lives.

This weekend, we have celebrated the gospel through our intercession and through the ministry of God's Word in Southern California. Thank you for standing with and for me as I spoke at HOPE Christian Academy in Orange Co., California, Lighthouse Bible Church in Simi Valley, and a home church in La Habra Heights.

Each time I spoke, I think most everyone was aware of the presence of God and many experienced a deep conviction about striving more for themselves than for the glory of the gospel. As time was given for them to say to the Lord what needed to be said about how they have lived their lives, you could hear the quiet hum of hundreds of prayerful whispers of confession and gratefulness for Jesus' supreme sacrifice to remove the penalty and scourge of living for ourselves.

It was encouraging for both young people and adults to express their appreciation for the

gospel. Imagine the transformation which may occur if both parents, children, and young adults quit living for Self and only lived in a manner of the gospel as the Apostle Paul admonished the Philippians in 1:27.

Several people at each place remarked that they experienced deep conviction with regard to their selfishness. I hope that encourages you in your prayer ministry, because it is an answer to prayer and only possible as the Holy Spirit applies the gospel to their hearts.

Another blessing of my speaking in Southern California is the opportunity to fellowship with many dear friends. Since I went by myself this weekend, I spent time with 21 different people who either attended the church in Huntington Beach where I was pastor for many years or with whom I've ministered in the past twelve years. The fellowship was sweet, and I was reminded of God's gracious providence during those years of ministry to allow us to minister together in Orange County.

One of the most encouraging visits for me was with two precious saints, Dan and Cherron Alley. Dan is suffering greatly and Cherron, with the assistance of members of Coast Community Church and other care providers is helping care for him. Dan has been in the hospital since November until this last Thursday. It is amazing how God is being glorified in the eyes of those who do his kidney dialysis each week, assist in feeding him through a feeding tube, and who care for him in his bed-ridden state. They are amazed at his humility and ability to keep a

joyful and loving spirit during intractable pain. For Dan to die would be gain, but for him to live in his pain in a God-honoring, gospel-glorifying way is Christ and for the building of the faith of those who believe. Please pray for continued grace for Dan and Cherron.

Saturday morning, about 50 fathers and sons met for breakfast and then encouragement from Philippians. It is exciting to think about the impact the gospel will have in their lives and families if they were to live in a manner worthy of the gospel: doing nothing from selfishness but thinking of others as more important than themselves. They would shine as lights in a selfish and perverse generation!

Two recent converted Chinese couples met with us on Sunday morning. One man was an atheistic communist who came to Christ while attending an ESL class in the home of the family who hosted the house church. Their response to the

gospel was a tremendous testimony of the power of God to transform lives and transfer souls from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of God's Son.

My next speaking engagement will be February 2 in Georgetown, TX. Until then, remember, "Life is all about Jesus!"



Orange County, California



Simi Valley, California

To God be the glory!