

The Law and the Gospel

John Colquhoun (1815)

Chapter 6a (Lesson 8)

The Uses of the Gospel and of the Law in Subsistence to it

Section 1-Principal uses of the Gospel

1. It is through the gospel that Christ is made known to sinners. In so doing, sinners are shown the _____ of God in reconciling them to Him by Christ alone.

“The great use of the gospel is to make Christ known to lost sinners as the only and the all-sufficient Savior; to reveal Him to them in His infinitely glorious person as God-man and Mediator; in His surety-righteousness of their justification before God; in His immeasurable fullness of the Spirit for their sanctification and consolation; and in His saving offices and endearing relations to all who believe in Him. It serves to represent to them how Jesus has loved them, what He has done and suffered for them, and what blessings of salvation He has purchased for them and is ready to dispense to them.”

“The manifold doctrines, offers, and promises of the gospel are in Scripture styled ‘the manifold wisdom of God’ (Eph. 3:10). They clearly show that God has devised the scheme of our redemption with such astonishing wisdom; that our salvation is all of grace and all of merit, all of mercy and all of justice; that our iniquities are forgiven, and yet the punishment due for them is inflicted; that the ungodly who believe are justified, and yet the ungodliness is condemned; and that salvation is freely bestowed; and, after all, that the demands of the law and justice are fully answered.”

2. It is through the gospel that sinners are made aware of the eternal _____ of redemption.

“It is the gospel that discloses to sinners the covenant of grace into which the Father and the Son as the last Adam, with the infinite approbation (agreement) of the Holy Spirit, have entered for the salvation of such sinners as believe...It is by the gospel, accompanied with the illuminating influences of His Holy Spirit, that the Lord Jesus, the messenger of the covenant, shows elect sinners His covenant (Psalm 25:14).”

3. It is through the gospel that sinners are shown that to them salvation is _____ offered.

“In the blessed gospel, Christ, and God in Christ, are freely offered to sinful men, and men are graciously invited as sinners to receive the offer and to entrust the whole affair of their salvation to Christ and to God in Him. By the gospel, they are informed that the Lord Jesus offers Himself with all the inestimable blessings of the everlasting covenant to them and that He graciously invites and urges them as sinners to accept Him as their all-sufficient Savior and to place the confidence of their hearts in Him for salvation from sin and wrath.”

4. It is the gospel that the Holy Spirit uses to communicate the _____ of God to elect sinners.

“The gospel is the means that the Holy Spirit employs for communicating the grace of Christ to elect sinners in order to produce that change in their state and of their nature to which they have been chosen.”

5. It is through the gospel that the Holy Spirit _____ true faith.

“The Spirit renders the reading and, especially, the hearing of the gospel effectual means of working faith in the hearts of sinners, by which they believe with application the gracious offers of Christ, and of His righteousness and fullness, and trust in Him for salvation to themselves in particular.”

6. It is through the gospel that the Holy Spirit grows the saints in _____ and spiritual _____.

“It is in proportion, then, as the saints are enabled to believe with application to themselves the offers and promises of the gospel and to trust in Jesus Christ for salvation that they advance in holiness and comfort.”

7. It is through the gospel that the _____ of the world is restrained.

“The gospel is a means of increasing the knowledge, or restraining the depravity, and of reforming the external conduct of many unregenerate sinners and so of qualifying them for being, in various respects, serviceable to the people of God around them. It is often a means, under the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit, of rendering many unregenerate men less hurtful and more useful to the saints of God than otherwise they would be.”

“For as no saint could continue to live in communion with Christ and with other saints without sanctifying grace, and that daily communicated to him, so neither could he live among other sinners unless restraining influences were afforded to them.”

8. It is through the gospel that the _____ of Christ is made known to both men and angels.

“The glory of the great Redeemer’s person and work shines forth in the view of holy angels and redeemed men with the utmost resplendent luster...The Lord affords far more illustrious displays of His infinite glory in redemption than in any other of His works.”