

DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Michael
Cherney
Trinity Lutheran
Church

The Gospel – A Message Beyond Politics

The last two years have been like a jackhammer. Political upheavals, COVID arguments, and civil unrest all smashed through the outer crust that hid our true character. I have heard many exasperated variations of, “If only people would understand (fill in the blank).” I said it too. Didn’t you? What should we fill the blank with? This is how Paul did: “Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel.” (2 Timothy 2:8)

“If only people would understand...” what? Do we want people to “convert” to a political party, instead of Jesus? Do we create barriers to our witness, communicating that only good, moral people get God’s love?

When I look at my heart, I see misplaced priorities. We need more than a clinching argument. We need new hearts. We need the gospel.

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, [...] Restore to me the joy of your salvation [...] Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.” (Psalm 51:10,12,13)

Jesus took our sin and crucified it on the cross. In place of a sinful heart, God gives you a new heart – one that knows his life-changing love. “If only people would understand the gospel!” David agrees, and he takes ownership: “I will teach

DEVOTIONAL

transgressors your ways.” Try it! Instead of searching for the clinching argument, show your God-given heart to angry people. Listen, love, teach, tell. Pray that God use your witness to bring the joy of salvation to others –like he did for you.

Dear God, thank you for giving me a new heart. Bring me the joy of the gospel. Give me opportunities to live and teach it to everyone around me, because they need it too. Amen.

Pastor Michael
Cherney
Trinity Lutheran
Church