

Deconstructed

The Gospel (Week 1)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

The good news is Jesus has redeemed my eternal soul and given His Kingdom purpose, to my present.

Key Scriptures

And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. John 8:32

... Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
Mark 1:14-15

There is a devastating humility that comes when you're willing to deconstruct something you've given your life to.

– Rise and Fall of Mars Hill podcast

Two gospel camps:

- Eternal freedom camp.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:1

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

The eternal freedom gospel can leave us selfishly saved.

- Socially responsible camp.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; 2 Corinthians 5:20a

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'
Matthew 25:34-36, 40

The socially responsible gospel can leave us soulfully insensitive.

Neither camps are wrong, but independently they are incomplete.

Start talking.

- Have you experienced pain, hurt, and/or confusion as a result of followers of Jesus? If so, please describe?
- Why is the hurt caused by a church and followers of Jesus such a different sort of pain?
- How have you "deconstructed" your faith in the past?
- What are the differences of deconstructing your faith vs. demolishing it?

Start thinking.

- Read John 8:32. How does that connect to this concept of "deconstruction"? What are examples of things that need to be stripped away from the core tenets of Christian faith? How does stripping those things away result in freedom?
- Read Mark 1:14-15. What two aspects of the Gospel are presented in this verse?
- Read Romans 8:1 and 5:8. What do those tell us about the Gospel?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:20a. What is implied by the term, ambassadors? How does God make His appeal through us?
- Read Matthew 25:34-36, 40. How does this parable relate to the Gospel? Why is it important for understanding the whole Gospel?

Start sharing.

- Which of the two gospel camps do you have greatest history with?
- Describe what you have seen first hand as negatives to exclusively viewing the Gospel as one or the other.
- How do we minimize the Gospel when we present it as either/or?
- What new insight (if any) did you gain from this?

Start doing.

- How will you better acquaint yourself with the two-fold truth of the Gospel?
- Describe one way you can more effectively live out each aspect of the Gospel this week.

Closing prayer.

Jesus I confess that I so easily add my own predudices, and personal preferences to the faith you gave your life to author. Lord, also, I have been hurt, let down, and confused by much of those that claim your name have done and said. Heal my hurts and help me reclaim your truth, and your faith while living out all aspects of the whole Gospel.