

the very good gospel

the very good gospel is a profound and transformative message that extends beyond traditional interpretations of the gospel. It emphasizes not only the redemption from sin but also the restoration of all things to their original, perfect state as intended by God. This comprehensive perspective offers a richer understanding of salvation, hope, and the ultimate purpose of Jesus Christ's work. The very good gospel highlights the fullness of God's kingdom, encompassing creation, reconciliation, and renewal. In this article, the focus will be on exploring the biblical foundation, theological significance, and practical implications of the very good gospel. Readers will gain insight into how this message impacts Christian faith, worship, and daily life, while also addressing common misconceptions. The following sections will guide you through a detailed examination of this gospel, its historical context, and its relevance today.

- Understanding the Biblical Foundation of the Very Good Gospel
- Theological Significance of the Very Good Gospel
- Practical Implications for Christian Life and Worship
- Common Misconceptions and Clarifications

Understanding the Biblical Foundation of the Very Good Gospel

The very good gospel is deeply rooted in Scripture, drawing from both the Old and New Testaments to present a holistic view of God's redemptive plan. Central to this message is the concept that God's original creation was "very good," as stated in Genesis 1:31. This phrase indicates a perfect harmony and fullness in creation before the fall of humanity. The gospel, therefore, is not merely about salvation from sin, but about the restoration of this original goodness through Jesus Christ.

Creation and the Original Goodness

The biblical narrative begins with God's intentional creation of the world, culminating in humanity made in His image. This original state is marked by peace, justice, and flourishing relationships between God, humans, and the rest of creation. The very good gospel asserts that this original goodness is the foundation for understanding the purpose of salvation.

The Fall and Its Consequences

Following creation, the fall in Genesis 3 introduces sin and brokenness into the world, disrupting the very good state. The gospel addresses this disruption by announcing the promise of redemption and restoration. The very good gospel emphasizes that the work of Christ aims to reverse the effects of the fall, not just to forgive individual sins but to renew all aspects of creation.

The Promise of Redemption and Restoration

Throughout the Old Testament, the prophets speak of a coming Messiah who will bring healing and renewal. The New Testament reveals Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of these promises, whose life, death, and resurrection inaugurate the restoration of God's kingdom. This restoration includes spiritual renewal, reconciliation between God and humanity, and ultimately the renewal of the entire cosmos.

Theological Significance of the Very Good Gospel

The very good gospel carries deep theological implications that shape Christian doctrine and worldview. It reframes salvation as a comprehensive restoration rather than solely individual forgiveness. This theological perspective impacts how believers understand God's nature, human purpose, and the mission of the church.

God's Character and Kingdom

This gospel highlights God as a creator who delights in goodness and desires the flourishing of all creation. It portrays the kingdom of God as a present and future reality where God's will is perfectly realized. The very good gospel stresses that God's redemptive plan is inclusive of all creation, reflecting His justice, mercy, and love.

Human Identity and Purpose

According to the very good gospel, humans are created with inherent dignity and purpose, made in the image of God to steward and enjoy creation. Sin distorts this identity, but through Christ, believers are restored to their intended role. This restoration invites a renewed understanding of vocation, community, and personal growth within God's design.

The Role of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is central to the very good gospel as the agent of restoration. His incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection are seen as pivotal events that initiate the renewal of all things. Christ's work reconciles humanity to God, defeats the powers of sin and death, and guarantees the future hope of a renewed creation.

Practical Implications for Christian Life and Worship

The very good gospel influences how believers live out their faith and engage in worship. It encourages a holistic approach to spirituality that integrates justice, stewardship, and hope. This gospel motivates active participation in God's ongoing work of restoration in the world.

Living Out Restoration

Christians are called to reflect the very good gospel by pursuing restoration in their communities and environments. This includes acts of mercy, social justice, environmental stewardship, and reconciliation. Living out this gospel means embodying God's kingdom values in daily interactions and decisions.

Worship as Celebration of Restoration

Worship centered on the very good gospel acknowledges God's ongoing work in the world and anticipates the final consummation of His kingdom. It is characterized by gratitude, hope, and commitment to God's purposes. This perspective shapes liturgy, prayer, and the communal life of the church.

Hope and Perseverance

The very good gospel provides believers with a confident hope that transcends present difficulties. It assures them of God's ultimate victory over evil and the promise of a restored creation. This hope fosters perseverance and resilience in the Christian journey.

Common Misconceptions and Clarifications

Despite its rich message, the very good gospel is sometimes misunderstood or oversimplified. Clarifying these misconceptions helps safeguard the integrity of this gospel and promotes a balanced understanding.

Misconception: The Gospel Is Only About Individual Salvation

One common misunderstanding is that the gospel solely concerns personal forgiveness and eternal life. While these are essential, the very good gospel expands the scope to include cosmic restoration and renewal of all creation. Salvation, in this sense, is communal and universal in its ultimate intent.

Misconception: The World Will Remain Broken After Salvation

Another misconception is that the world's brokenness is permanent and that Christians simply await escape to heaven. The very good gospel teaches that God's plan involves the transformation and renewal of the entire world, not abandonment. Believers participate in this restoration now and look forward to its completion.

Misconception: The Gospel Minimizes the Reality of Sin

Some critics argue that emphasizing restoration downplays the seriousness of sin. On the contrary, the very good gospel acknowledges sin's devastating effects but also proclaims the power of Christ's redemption to overcome sin completely. It balances the reality of judgment with the assurance of grace and renewal.

- Emphasizes cosmic restoration along with individual salvation
- Affirms the original goodness of creation as God's intention
- Highlights Jesus Christ's role in renewing all things
- Encourages active Christian participation in restoration
- Provides hope that sustains believers through trials

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Very Good Gospel' about?

'The Very Good Gospel' is a musical that celebrates the African American church experience, exploring themes of faith, community, and social justice through powerful gospel music and storytelling.

Who created 'The Very Good Gospel'?

'The Very Good Gospel' was created by Sean Patrick Flahaven, who wrote the book and lyrics, with music composed by Sean Patrick Flahaven and others.

Where has 'The Very Good Gospel' been performed?

'The Very Good Gospel' has been performed in various theaters across the United States, including off-Broadway venues and regional theaters known for showcasing contemporary musicals.

What makes 'The Very Good Gospel' unique compared to other gospel musicals?

'The Very Good Gospel' stands out for its contemporary approach to gospel music, blending traditional gospel sounds with modern themes and a fresh narrative that addresses current social issues.

Can I listen to the soundtrack of 'The Very Good Gospel' online?

Yes, the soundtrack of 'The Very Good Gospel' is available on major music streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music.

Is 'The Very Good Gospel' suitable for all ages?

'The Very Good Gospel' is generally suitable for teenagers and adults, as it deals with mature themes related to faith and social justice, but it is presented in an uplifting and inspiring manner.

Additional Resources

1. *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right*

This book explores the transformative message of the gospel, emphasizing God's plan to restore all things to their original goodness. It challenges readers to see beyond personal salvation to the larger narrative of redemption for the entire world. With clear biblical insights, it offers hope and encouragement for living out this grand story in everyday life.

2. *The Gospel According to Jesus: What Is Authentic Faith?*

This classic work delves into the core of the gospel message as taught by Jesus himself. It distinguishes between cultural Christianity and the authentic faith that Jesus calls for. By focusing on the kingdom of God, it invites readers to embrace a gospel that impacts every aspect of life.

3. *The Kingdom New Testament: A Contemporary Translation*

This fresh translation of the New Testament highlights the kingdom of God as the central theme of the gospel. It provides a vibrant and accessible rendering of scripture, making the very good news approachable for modern readers. The translator's notes guide readers to a deeper understanding of the gospel's power.

4. *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*

Timothy Keller reexamines Jesus' parable of the prodigal son to reveal the radical nature of the gospel. The book shows how the gospel addresses both the rebellious and the religious, inviting all into a restored relationship with God. It is a compelling invitation to experience the very good news of grace and reconciliation.

5. *Simply Good News: Why the Gospel Is News and What Makes It Good*

N.T. Wright presents the gospel as the story of God's plan to renew the world through Jesus Christ. This book clarifies common misconceptions about the gospel and explains why it is truly good news for everyone. Wright's engaging style makes complex theological ideas accessible and inspiring.

6. *The Gospel-Centered Life: Being Good News People in a Bad News World*

This book encourages believers to live out the gospel in practical ways that transform their communities. It emphasizes the importance of gospel-centered identity, mission, and hope. Readers are equipped to be agents of change by embodying the very good news in their daily lives.

7. *God's Very Good Idea: The Story of God's Creation and Redemption*

Aimed at younger readers and families, this book narrates the gospel story with a focus on God's original intention for creation. It highlights how God's plan is to make everything very good again through Jesus. Illustrated with warmth and clarity, it is perfect for introducing children to the gospel.

8. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*

Lesslie Newbigin addresses the challenges of sharing the very good news in a diverse, secular world. He offers a compelling argument for the relevance and power of the gospel across cultural boundaries. This book is a resource for thoughtful engagement with contemporary society through the lens of the gospel.

9. *Living the Gospel: The Call to a Very Good Life*

This practical guide focuses on applying gospel truths to everyday living, encouraging believers to embody grace, love, and hope. It explores how the very good gospel shapes identity, relationships, and purpose. Through real-life examples, readers are inspired to live out the gospel authentically and joyfully.

The Very Good Gospel

The Very Good Gospel

Related Articles

- [the serpent and the rainbow](#)
- [the shrink next door parents guide](#)
- [the science of fasting and sunbathing the hygienic system](#)

[Back to Home](#)