

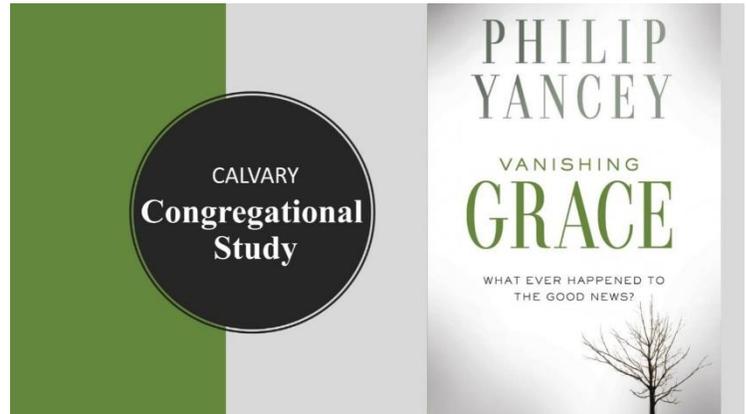
A Two-Part Sermon...

Sermon • *John 4*

Sermon Series: Congregational Study

October 20, 2019

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Part 1: ~~We've~~... No, I've Got Problems

1) One of the strongest temptations is to think, "*I'm better than them.*"

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' ¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' ¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."
(Luke 18)

2) The one who forgives, redeems, and renews is *Christ.*

¹Therefore... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.
(Hebrews 12:1–3)

Part 2: “Jesus the Solution and Me”

- 1) We don't only talk about Jesus' love, we live it.

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

(1 John 3:18)

- 2) We don't only live Jesus' love, we talk about it.

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

(1 Corinthians 1)

- 3) When people look at us, we want them to see Christ.

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 11)

- 4) We don't point fingers at one another; we point to Christ.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

(Matthew 5)