



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Cliff Notes For CPC Preaching 2013

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Over this past year, you have heard many sermons. Although there have been many things said, it is clear that I (and I hope the Bible!) continue to say a few things over and over again. I thought I might make clear what the very redundant themes of my preaching are. You might call the following the "Cliff Notes" to CPC preaching. Here are the big themes (and get ready, because they are going to keep coming!).

Big Topics Covered in Preaching This Year:

- 1) The Gospel is the means of justification and sanctification. Translation: Jesus's life, death, and resurrection are the way to heaven and the path to transformation in this life. We don't start with grace and finish with works.
- 2) A God-Centered Faith: God is the point of the story, not us. It is all for his glory. Every story in the Bible is primarily about him and is given to produce glory for him. Everything begins and ends with the Triune God.
- 3) God is the Gospel- The reward is a relationship with Christ not ancillary benefits like getting rich or having miraculous healings or even heaven (heaven is of course, being with him).
- 4) Pleasure, Pleasure, Pleasure- God is joy for the believer. Our pleasure in him is a sign of his good work in us.
- 5) We are people of the whole Bible- Old Testament and New Testament. As the covenant people of God, our story begins with Abraham, not with John the Baptist.
- 6) Sin is more than just a side issue- it is THE issue, in everything. Sin is not just the naughty list but absolute rejection of God. We don't just do bad things, we are also bad people- translation: we sin and are sinners. We are culpable, guilty, and left for dead except for the grace of Jesus. The cross looms larger and grace is sweeter as we realize the depth of our sin. Therefore, salvation is God's work and not ours.
- 7) Obedience flows from the abundance of grace, not the other way around. We are compelled by God's grace to go to others as he has come to us.
- 8) The Gospel changes everything. There is no part of our lives that God's grace doesn't seek to transform and regenerate into his image for his glory.

I think these themes are worth staking your life on.

Yours in Christ,

Alec