



A Note from the Director



Stephen Seay
LPCC, Executive Director

I have come to believe that the “Good News” is really, only richly experienced by experiencing the bad news first. Christ and the true hope of heaven only crash in on me when I begin to actually experience the reality of our fallen world. The Bible talks of the curse, a state of things in me and around me, always offering up futility. What that has come to mean (or at least what that looks like) is to give one simple example: a law I recently saw functioning in California. This law is the “marijuana law”; recreational marijuana is legal in California.

The state symbolically threw up their hands and basically said, “Everyone uses it so why fight it? And we

are so clever and will tax it and make money off our poor addicted populous.” Use of legalized marijuana has stayed the same and the black market has increased; people have figured out that black market marijuana is less expensive. Who wants to pay all the taxes, etc. that go along with legal marijuana purchases? This seems to me to be an example of man contriving a way to create a kind of utopia, to unknowingly try to circumvent the curse. This has never worked nor will it ever. But the bigger question is: How do we, in our little ways, try to circumvent the curse? How can we have the hope of Christ’s true heaven while trying to create our own slice of heaven in this fallen world? We at NCCC want to help those we see understand those things in their own lives.

In Him,

Stephen Seay

Please be in prayer for our upcoming pastor's breakfast, November 5

We, at Northland, are committed to serving churches and pastors to make a difference in people's lives.

Recently, a clinician mentioned the following story,

“A woman was coming back to see me since her ex-husband's death. She was grieving and desperate for some kind of peace. She had unresolved anger towards him but felt guilty for feeling anger. She wanted to be able to come to some kind of peace because now her acting out sexually was worse and her drinking was worse. She was sick of the lifestyle she had chosen and was ready to accept Jesus and work through her past pain with the church and her past pain in relationships with people and herself. It is a privilege now to pray with her and lead her through this time in her life, but now with Jesus.”

Thoughts on Happiness

By Theresa Knudson



Every day, we are inundated with information about “how to be happy.” There is always a new self-care technique, a new diet, a new book, a new exercise... We love to chase after these things in hopes of creating and maintaining a peace in our hearts or a life without any suffering. In and of themselves, these “new things” are good! But they will never completely satisfy our heart’s innermost desire. God loves us so much that he deeply wants happiness and peace for us. What does Jesus say about “happiness?” I think of the Beatitudes when this question comes to mind. Matthew 6:33 states, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Jesus’s sermon is teaching us that what makes us “happy” is seeking, above all, God’s will for our lives, which is righteousness and right order.

What role do our emotions play in seeking Him first? I believe they play a monumental role. Derived from the Latin, *ex-motus*, the word emotion means “to set in motion.” Our emotions are our primary indicator that something in our heart needs attention (needs tending to). Our emotions are given to us by God’s creation of the human body. They are a psychological and physiological reaction we have to our experiences in this fallen world. However, they are not dictators, though they can feel that way at times. Many of us have heard the advice, “Don’t let your emotions control you.” Though it is true that emotions should not dictate behavior; they should, however, influence our choices. **Dr. Dan Allender, states, “Emotions are the language of the soul. They are the cry that gives the heart a voice.”** Many of us try to discern God’s will for our lives without engaging the biological faculties He gave us first. We try to override our emotions and discern God’s will only through rational, intellectual, or moral means. But this is not a complete discernment. Rather, we are called to use all of our faculties.

I think of it as a somewhat linear process: First, “What am I feeling? What is this emotion communicating to me?” Then, “What do I know about this issue rationally? What does my intellect say?” Followed by, “What do I know is true morally about this issue?” And then putting it all together, “What is my heart telling me? What is my ultimate desire here?” **It is after I have mindfully acknowledged my emotions, followed by my intellect, and then my moral and spiritual truth, that I can identify and surrender my desire in accordance with God’s will.** We know that after we seek His will for us, Jesus says “and all these things shall be added unto you.” It is here that I hear His promise of peace. **I believe that, through our emotions, Jesus is always gently reminding us of our heart’s deepest longing: Him.**

Save the Date

Dec 3, 2019, 8am ET

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Giving Tuesday: Visit our Facebook page to donate. Donations start at 8am ET and will be matched until funds run out. Prayerfully consider supporting us.

