

“The Gospel” poem

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

7-14-25

This is my first poem. I may be new to this, but I wrote it from the heart. Hope it blesses you.

THE GOSPEL

It did not begin in Bethlehem's stall,
Nor in Galilee's hills, nor Jerusalem's wall.
Before light was spoken, before time could flee,
The Lamb was slain in eternity.

Not plan B, not repair, not Heaven's last breath,
But the will of the Father to crush Him to death.
Not for the righteous, not for the wise,
But for rebels and beggars and prodigal lies.

He came with no beauty to draw men near,
Despised, rejected, acquainted with fear.
The hands He formed would strike His face,
The lips He made would curse His grace.

The law stood tall, we could not rise.
Our mouths were shut, condemned by lies.
But Christ was born under the curse,
To bear our judgment, to take our worse.

Not by works, not by worth, not by our plea,
But by mercy's blood-soaked decree.
The nails were justice. The silence, wrath.
The thorns crowned guilt. The cross cleared the path.

He was crushed where we should stand,
Pierced by the fury of the Father's hand.
But death could not claim the sinless King
He rose, and emptied the grave's dark sting.

Now grace runs deeper than all our scars,
And peace flows wide as mercy's scars.
We come with nothing. He gives us all.

The Gospel: God saves those who fall.

The Gospel We Forgot (Part 1 – What is the Gospel?)

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

6-27-25

THE GOSPEL WE FORGOT — PART 1

What Is the Gospel? (1 Corinthians 15:1–4)

We live in a time where people say “gospel” but mean a hundred different things. Some think it means living a good life. Others think it’s about getting healed, being blessed, or walking in your destiny. Turn on most Christian TV shows, and you’ll hear a gospel of breakthrough, favour, and personal success. But none of that is the gospel.

The apostle Paul didn’t leave it to our imagination. He laid it down with clarity.

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you... that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” - 1 Corinthians 15:1–4

The gospel is not about us. It’s about Him. The gospel is the announcement of what Christ has done... not advice about what we should do. It is not something we improve. It is something we receive, believe, and proclaim.

The Gospel Begins with Sin

No one sees the beauty of the gospel unless they understand the weight of sin. Christ did not come to be our life coach. He came to rescue us from the wrath of God. Romans 3:23 makes it clear, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We are not mistakers in need of correction. We are rebels in need of reconciliation.

The Gospel Declares Substitution

“Christ died for our sins.” He did not die as a martyr, a moral example, or a victim of injustice. He died as a substitute. He stood in our place. He took the judgment we deserved. Isaiah 53:5 says, “He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities.” This is the heart of the gospel... that the spotless Son of God bore the curse that belonged to us.

The Gospel Is Rooted in History and Scripture

Paul says Christ’s death and resurrection happened “according to the Scriptures.” This wasn’t a random event. It was the fulfilment of a plan set in motion before the foundation of the world. Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 53, Psalm 22 - the Old Testament pointed forward to this moment. Everything in redemptive history was driving toward the cross and the empty tomb.

The Gospel Is Not Complete Without the Resurrection

Christ not only died. He rose. This is not a symbolic resurrection. It is a bodily resurrection. Jesus got out of the grave. He is alive. This is the proof that the Father accepted His sacrifice, that sin

was defeated, and that death has lost its sting. Without the resurrection, Paul says, “your faith is futile and you are still in your sins” (1 Corinthians 15:17).

The Gospel Is to Be Proclaimed and Believed

Paul says this gospel “you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved.” The gospel is not a one-time message for unbelievers. It is the very foundation of the Christian life. We never move past it. We live in it. We stand on it. We die holding it.

So What Is the Gospel?

It is the good news that the eternal Son of God, Jesus Christ, became man, lived a sinless life under the law, died in our place as a substitute for our sins, was buried, and rose again... all in fulfillment of God’s redemptive promise. And through repentance and faith in Him, we are justified, reconciled, adopted, and eternally secure.

Anything else is not the gospel.
Anything added to it corrupts it.
Anything taken from it destroys it.

“If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.” - Galatians 1:9

We must recover the true gospel. Not a gospel of therapy. Not a gospel of prosperity. Not a gospel of man. But the gospel of God. Christ died. Christ rose. Christ reigns. That is our only hope.

This is the gospel we forgot.
Let us never forget it again.

The Gospel We Forgot (Part 2 – The Gospel is Not a Sales Pitch)

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

6-27-25

THE GOSPEL WE FORGOT — PART 2

The Gospel is not a sales pitch

Somewhere along the way, we lost the weight of the gospel. We turned a divine command into a casual suggestion. We made the cross of Christ look like an option on a religious menu. And in doing so, we stopped preaching the gospel as it was meant to be preached.

The gospel is not a sales pitch. It is not a polished message crafted to get maximum responses. It is not a motivational slogan. It is not meant to be softened, sweetened, or packaged to impress crowds. The gospel is a call to repentance. It is a call to die to self and live unto God. It is not a “Jesus loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life” message. It is “repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand” as our Lord declared in Matthew 4:17.

When Paul preached in Athens, he did not say, “Would you like to try Jesus?” He said God “commands all people everywhere to repent” - Acts 17:30. That is not a suggestion. That is not an invitation. That is a command. And no one has the authority to change how God presents the gospel.

Yet what do we see today? Emotional music. Dim lights. Clever stage talks. Carefully selected words to avoid offense. Appeals that say, “Just give Jesus a chance,” as if He were applying for a job. That is not the gospel of Scripture. That is a human-made version that strips Christ of His authority and places man in the seat of power.

The true gospel confronts sin. It reveals our guilt before a holy God. It calls us to bow the knee before the Lord of glory. It does not say, “Accept Jesus.” It says, “Surrender to the King.” The early church never sold Christ. They proclaimed Him. And they paid for it with their blood.

We must stop marketing Jesus as if He needs help to be appealing. He is not a product. He is not a life coach. He is not a spiritual therapist. He is the risen Son of God, the judge of all the earth, before whom every knee will bow and every tongue confess - Philippians 2:10–11. The only right response is repentance and faith. Anything less is disobedience.

Let us be honest. Many people “respond” to gospel presentations today not because they are convicted of sin, but because they are promised a better life. A smoother path. Less guilt. More blessings. But when trials come, when hardship follows, when Jesus does not fix their problems the way they expected, they fall away. Why? Because they never heard the true gospel to begin with. They heard a pitch. Not a call to die.

Dear reader, the gospel does not offer you comfort without a cross. It offers you Christ. It offers you forgiveness at the cost of His blood. It offers you new life through death - His death and your death to self. It demands your whole life, not your emotional decision.

Let us stop softening what God has made sharp. Let us stop trying to make the gospel look attractive. It already is. But not to the flesh. It is beautiful to those whom the Spirit awakens. To them, it is the power of God unto salvation. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile (Romans 1:16)."* To the rest, it will always be foolishness. And that is exactly what Scripture says. *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18)."*

The gospel is not a product to be sold. It is a truth to be proclaimed. It is not designed to make people feel good. It is designed to save them from hell.

May we never forget that.

The Gospel We Forgot (Part 3 – The Gospel is Not Moralism)

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

6-27-25

THE GOSPEL WE FORGOT — PART 3

The Gospel is not Moralism

There is a dangerous idea quietly accepted in many churches today. It is not loud or shocking. In fact, it often looks very religious and very respectable. It sings the right songs, avoids the obvious sins, dresses well on Sunday, and is admired by the world. But it is not the gospel. It is moralism.

Moralism says the goal of Christianity is to make you a good person. It makes everything about behaviour. It turns the Bible into a rulebook, church into a performance hall, and God into a distant judge who claps when you behave well. But this is not the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is not what He died for.

The gospel is not "try harder, do better, fix yourself." The gospel is not "live right and God will accept you." That is the old lie of every religion that tries to climb up to heaven by human strength. But the gospel is that Christ came down to rescue the weak, the ungodly, the broken, and the dead.

Paul did not write, "The moral shall live by rules." He wrote, "The righteous shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). He didn't preach a message that made bad people good. He preached a message that made dead people alive.

Moralism hides our need for grace. It makes us think we are clean on the outside while we rot within. Jesus warned of this when He spoke to the Pharisees. He said they were like whitewashed tombs... beautiful on the outside but full of death on the inside (Matthew 23:27). That is what moralism does. It scrubs the outside but never touches the heart.

The gospel, however, goes much deeper. It tells the truth about our sin. It exposes the thoughts of the heart. It tears down every image we have built of ourselves and says, "You must be born again" (John 3:3). Not polished. Not improved. Not religious. But born again.

This is why Christ did not come preaching self-reform but repentance. This is why He ate with sinners, not social climbers. This is why He saved Paul, the chief of sinners, not Paul the moral man. Because the gospel is not for those who think they are well, but for those who know they are sick (Mark 2:17).

And this is also why the true gospel offends the religious man more than the rebel. The rebel knows he is unclean. The religious man thinks he is not.

Moralism may change behavior for a while. It may create discipline, reputation, and even success. But it cannot produce holiness. It cannot wash away guilt. It cannot grant eternal life. Only the blood of Christ can do that.

The gospel is not about making bad people better. It is about making dead people live. It is not about what we do for God. It is about what God has done for us in Christ. When we forget this, we replace the cross with a mirror. And we begin to worship our own image instead of the crucified Lord.

So ask yourself: What are you trusting in today? Your goodness or His grace? Your works or His finished work? Your effort or His mercy?

If moralism could save, then Christ died for nothing (Galatians 2:21). But He did not die for nothing. He died to save sinners. He died to give us not a better life, but a new one.

THE GOSPEL IS NOT MORALISM.

THE GOSPEL IS CHRIST.

He, who ears to hear, let him hear.

The Gospel We Forgot (Part 4 – The Gospel is Not Self-Help)

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

6-27-25

THE GOSPEL WE FORGOT - PART 4

The Gospel is Not Self-Help

The world today is obsessed with self. Self-love. Self-worth. Self-discovery. And sadly, the Church has not escaped this pull. In a thousand pulpits across the world, what is preached on Sunday sounds less like the gospel of Jesus Christ and more like a motivational seminar.

We are told that we are enough, that our breakthrough is coming, that God exists to help us unlock our full potential. The cross is reduced to a divine tool to boost our self-image. Jesus becomes a life coach, not a crucified Savior. The Bible is treated like a manual for success, and sermons are designed to make us feel better, not holier.

But the true gospel is not about feeling better. It is about being made new.

The gospel is not about unlocking our hidden greatness. It is about dying to self, not exalting it. It does not come to massage our pride, but to crucify it. Jesus did not say, "Love yourself more." He said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

The true gospel begins with this hard truth — we are not enough. That is why Christ had to come. Our problem is not a lack of self-esteem. It is a sinful heart. And God did not send His Son to stroke our egos, but to save us from the wrath we rightly deserve.

This is why Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Not a better version of the old self. Not an improved or happier version. A new creation.

The gospel does not make us better people. It makes us new people.

This is why the early Church turned the world upside down — not because they had positive thinking, but because they were dead to self and alive to God. They were not busy trying to find themselves. They had already lost themselves for the sake of Christ and found Him to be their all.

Yes, the gospel brings joy. Yes, it brings comfort. Yes, it brings peace. But not as the world gives. It does not promise us a pain-free life. It promises us a cross. But in that cross is resurrection life. And in dying to self, we finally find what we were made for — Christ Himself.

So we must reject this false gospel of self-help. It is no gospel at all. It is the religion of the world with a thin layer of Christian language.

The true gospel says we are dead in our sins but God, being rich in mercy, made us alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5). It does not say we are amazing people who need a little divine push. It says we are rebels who need rescue.

We forgot the gospel when we made it about self. We remember it only when we see again the bleeding Savior on the cross, bearing our guilt, not boosting our potential.

He came not to make our lives easier, but to save us from eternal death.

Let us go back to the real gospel. The old rugged gospel. The one that saves not by affirming us, but by crucifying us and raising us to new life.

He, who ears to hear, let him hear.

The Gospel We Forgot (Part 5 – The Gospel Demands Repentance)

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

6-27-25

THE GOSPEL WE FORGOT — PART 5

The Gospel Demands Repentance

We have made the Gospel too soft.

In our desperation to fill pews and keep crowds, we have watered it down into something easy to accept. We speak of grace but skip over sin. We preach love but never mention wrath. We talk about faith but stay quiet about repentance. And in doing so, we have created a gospel that comforts sinners in their sin rather than calling them out of it.

But the true Gospel never left repentance behind.

When Jesus began His public ministry, the first word out of His mouth was not love, peace, or blessing. It was repent. “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” — Matthew 4:17.

That same call echoed through the voice of John the Baptist before Him. And it thundered through the apostles after Him. On the day of Pentecost, when Peter preached Christ crucified and risen, the people were cut to the heart and asked, “What shall we do?” Peter did not say, Just believe. He said, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” - Acts 2:38.

True faith cannot exist without repentance. They are two sides of the same coin. You cannot cling to Christ while still holding onto your sin. You cannot walk toward God without turning away from the path you were on.

Repentance is not merely feeling sorry. It is not shedding tears on Sunday and returning to sin on Monday. It is a change of mind, heart, and direction. It is the cry of the tax collector in Luke 18:13, beating his chest and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” It is the posture of a heart broken by its rebellion and desperate for cleansing.

But today, many churches dare not preach this.

They fear it will drive people away. They say it is too harsh, too confrontational, too negative. So they replace repentance with vague terms like turning over a new leaf or inviting Jesus into your life. They tell people to add Jesus to their plans rather than calling them to lay down their lives. But Christ does not ask to be added. He commands to be followed.

He does not offer a suggestion. He gives a call; a call to deny self, take up the cross, and follow Him. That is not optional. That is the cost.

We must recover the Gospel that demands repentance. Because without it, there is no salvation.

Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" - Luke 13:3. Not once. Twice. Because He knew men would ignore it.

This Gospel is not just an invitation. It is a command from the King. Acts 17:30 says, "God now commands all people everywhere to repent." This is not a call to the few but to all. And the result is not a temporary feeling of conviction, but a transformed life.

That is why the early church turned the world upside down. They did not play with sin. They renounced it. They did not sell grace. They proclaimed the holy Lord who requires clean hands and a pure heart.

If we preach a Gospel without repentance, we preach a gospel that cannot save. We may get decisions. We may get attendance. But we will not see true conversions.

Let us return to the Gospel that Christ and His apostles preached. A Gospel that does not flatter the sinner but calls him to die to self. A Gospel that lays the axe at the root of every sin. A Gospel that saves not just from hell but from sin itself.

There is no other Gospel. There is no other door. If we forget repentance, we forget the very heart of the Gospel.

And in forgetting that, we forget Christ.

He, who has ears to hear, let him hear.

The Gospel We Forgot (Part 6 – The Cost of Following Christ)

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

6-27-25

THE GOSPEL WE FORGOT - PART 6

The Cost of Following Christ (Luke 9:23)

They told us Jesus would fix everything.

That He would make our lives better. That if we just invited Him into our hearts, we'd be healed, blessed, promoted, and always smiling. Many churches today have packaged the gospel like a product. A sales pitch to make Christianity more appealing. No repentance. No dying to self. No cross.

But Jesus never said that.

In fact, He said the very opposite. "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke 9:23 ESV). This isn't a verse we print on greeting cards. It is a call to death. Not just once, but every day.

The gospel is free, but following Jesus will cost you everything.

When Jesus called His disciples, He didn't offer them comfort or success. He offered them Himself. And they followed... not to gain the world, but to lose it. History tells us they were not honoured or applauded. Most of them were mocked, beaten, tortured, and killed. Peter was crucified upside down. James was beheaded. Thomas was pierced with spears. John was exiled to a prison island. Paul suffered hunger, stoning, shipwreck, beatings, and imprisonment. None of them chased prosperity. They chased Christ.

Why? Because they knew He was worth it.

They had seen something that changed them forever. Something this world could never offer, a crucified Saviour who conquered death and promised eternal life. "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8 ESV).

The modern church preaches self-esteem, not self-denial.

We are told to follow our dreams, not crucify our flesh. We are told to chase breakthrough, not holiness. But Christ said plainly, "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:27 ESV). Following Christ is not an optional add-on to your life. It is the end of your old life and the beginning of a new one.

Jesus never begged anyone to follow Him.

He never softened His words to keep the crowd. When the rich young ruler walked away, Jesus didn't run after him with a better offer. He let him go. Because true discipleship cannot be forced. It must be born from a heart that has seen the glory of Christ and is willing to forsake all for Him.

This gospel is not for the proud. It is for the broken.

It is not for those seeking ease, but for those who see the weight of their sin and cry out for mercy. Christ calls us to lay down our lives. Not just our sins, but our pride, our ambitions, our comforts, and our rights. "Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it" (Luke 17:33 ESV).

Christianity is not about living your best life now.

It is about losing your life for the sake of Christ and gaining eternal life in Him. This is the gospel we forgot... the gospel that calls us to the cross, not to comfort. The gospel that exposes our sin, breaks our pride, and fills us with a joy the world cannot touch. A gospel that may cost us everything in this life, but promises us everything in the life to come.

Because He is worthy. Even if we lose it all. Even if no one follows. Even if it costs us friends, family, jobs, or our very lives.

Jesus is worth it.

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it" (Luke 9:24 ESV).

Shall we follow Him, no matter the cost?

He, who has ears to hear, let him hear.

The Gospel We Forgot (Part 7 – Why the Gospel Offends)

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

6-27-25

THE GOSPEL WE FORGOT - PART 7

Why the Gospel Offends (Galatians 5:11)

The real gospel has never been popular. Never has. Never will. Because it confronts every man with the truth about himself. And that truth stings. It leaves no room for ego, self-righteousness, cultural pride, or religious boasting. The gospel offends because it tells us we are not good. That we are not neutral. That we are not seekers. It says we are rebels. Blind. Dead in sin. Children of wrath. Enemies of God. And that the only way we can be saved is by throwing ourselves on the mercy of Christ alone.

That is not flattering news. It is humiliating. It crushes every human attempt to climb our way to God. And that's why Paul said in Galatians 5:11, "But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed."

The gospel offends because the cross offends. The cross tells the world that nothing else can save. Not good deeds. Not religious rituals. Not tradition. Not heritage. Not moral behaviour. Not even sincerity. Only Christ crucified. That's why the Jews were scandalized and the Greeks scoffed (1 Corinthians 1:23). And it's why men still reject it today.

The gospel is offensive because it is exclusive. It doesn't allow for multiple roads. It doesn't pat every belief system on the back. It declares that there is salvation in no one else (Acts 4:12) and that Christ is the only way to the Father (John 14:6). In a culture addicted to tolerance, the gospel draws a line in the sand.

It is offensive because it tells sinners to repent. Not just be spiritual. Not just add Jesus to their life. Not just pray a prayer. But to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him. To walk away from sin. To turn from idols. To bow to His Lordship. And that's too much for many. They want a Jesus who saves them from hell but not from their sin.

It offends because it says God is sovereign in salvation. That He chooses. That He calls. That salvation is not of man's will but of God's mercy (Romans 9:16). That the new birth is not a human decision but a divine miracle. That God is not waiting for us to come to Him. He comes to us and makes us alive.

It offends the flesh, because the flesh wants glory. The flesh wants credit. The flesh wants to say, "I did it. I figured it out. I made the right choice." But the gospel says, "You were lost. And He found you. You were dead. And He gave you life. You were guilty. And He paid your debt."

That is offensive to the proud. But it is beautiful to the broken.

That is why true gospel preaching will never draw the crowd of the world. It may not get you a bestselling book or a conference stage. But it will raise the dead, open blind eyes, and glorify Christ.

So if the gospel you believe never offends anyone, then it's not the gospel.

It's a product.

It's a brand.

It's a soft lie dressed in Christian language.

The true gospel has nails in it. Blood on it. A cross at the centre.

And only when we preach it faithfully will we see true conversions.

We do not need to make it more palatable.

We need to preach it as it is.

Because only that gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

He, who has ears to hear, let him hear.

The Gospel We Forgot (Part 8 – The Gospel is Not About Your Best Life Now)

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

6-27-25

THE GOSPEL WE FORGOT - PART 8

The Gospel is not about your best life now

They filled the stage with lights, the walls with smoke, and the screen with smiling faces. There were no tears of repentance. No sound of mourning over sin. No fear of God. Only polished speeches, catchy phrases, and promises of a better tomorrow if you would just believe in yourself, claim it, speak it, sow a seed, and “let God unlock your destiny.”

This is not the gospel. This is not Christianity. This is the golden calf dressed in a suit and tie.

Somewhere along the way, the cross was traded for comfort. The blood of Christ was replaced with brand slogans and best-selling books. The weight of sin was buried under affirmations. The call to die was twisted into a promise to thrive. And pulpits became platforms for motivational speeches.

But the true gospel never promised your best life now. In fact, it promises the very opposite. Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23 ESV). That is not a verse for your coffee mug. It is a call to die.

This life is not the reward. It is the battlefield. And the crown only comes after the cross.

When the apostles preached the gospel, they did not tell people they would be healthy, wealthy, or admired. They told them they would be hated. They would suffer. They would be persecuted. And yet, they would find a joy and peace the world could never give. Why? Because they would gain Christ.

Paul wrote from prison, “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things” (Philippians 3:8 ESV). And what did he gain in return? Not health. Not prosperity. But Christ. And for Paul, that was enough.

The gospel is not about living your dream life. It is about being united with Christ in His death, and one day in His resurrection. That means we do not chase blessings here. We chase Christ. Even if it costs us everything.

Some of the most faithful Christians who ever lived died without money, without houses, without health, and without applause. But they had Christ. And that was their treasure.

The gospel is not a shortcut to your desires. It is the power of God to save your soul. It will ruin your plans, break your pride, shatter your idols, and raise you up as a new creation.

So if you are looking for your best life now, you are not looking for the gospel. You are looking for the world with a cross sticker on it. And that is not the message Jesus preached.

The gospel calls you to die with Him, live for Him, suffer with Him, and reign with Him. Not now. But then.

And if this life is the best you will ever have, then you are headed to a place where things will only get worse. But if Christ is your life now, even in tears, in trials, in loneliness, in affliction, then your best is yet to come.

Because your best life is not now. Your best life is when you see Him face to face.

He, who has ears to hear, let him hear.

The Blessing of Distress

from "Morning & Evening" devotional (July 19, morning)
by Charles H. Spurgeon (1865)

There is blessing in distress. But first, a reminder... The essence of the Bible and of Jesus revolves around two words... *"GOOD NEWS."*

The good news is that *"While we were sinners and enemies of God, Christ died for us and made us friends of God."* (Romans 5:8, 11) and that *"He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels."* (Isaiah 53:12)

It's amazing that, even though we have committed cosmic treason by sinning against a holy God, that same God loved us anyway, and provide His love by sending Jesus Christ, his only son, to take the punishment for sin that we deserved, while in exchange, giving us His perfect goodness and unconditional favor with God. *"God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The Bible tells us that we were lost, rebellious, and dead, separated from God and condemned in our sins with no ability to save ourselves (and that's really bad news)!

"But God (good news!), who is rich in mercy, because of his great love for us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in sin - it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2)

The Good News can be summarized in just one word. That word is... *"RESCUE!"*

"I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the Lord: "Lord, save me!" The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The Lord protects the unwary; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you."

- Psalms 116:1-7

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. - Isaiah 41:13

The message of entire Bible can be summarized in two words... *"TRUST ME."*
Trust me in times of trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.
- Psalm 50:15

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. - Proverbs 3:5-6

How do we connect to the security, purpose, freedom, and joy that this Good News guarantees for us? *Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." (John 6:29)*

People whose lives are a smooth and even path will see little of the glory of the Lord—they have few occasions of self-emptying, and therefore little fitness for being filled with the revelation of God.

Those who navigate small streams and shallow creeks know little of the God of the oceans—but those “doing business on the great waters” are the ones who see His “wondrous works in the deep” (Psalm 107:23–24).

Thank God, then, if you have been led on a rough road: this has given you your experience of God’s greatness and lovingkindness. Your troubles have enriched you with a wealth of knowledge that could be gained by no other means; your trials have been the “cleft in the rock” that Jehovah has set you in, like He did Moses, so you might behold His glory as it passed by (see Exodus 33:22).

Praise God that you have not been left in the darkness and ignorance that continued prosperity might have yielded—but that in the great fight of affliction, you have been prepared to receive the beams of His glory in His wonderful dealings with you.

- Charles H. Spurgeon (“Morning & Evening” July 19 morning)

Jeremiah Knight – My Testimony

The Reformation Resurgence
www.facebook.com/acalltoreform

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Many have frequently messaged asking about the ministry and who we are where we are working from, do we have a church, how can we meet in person, what are our core beliefs etc.

I think it is time to introduce myself in a brief manner. I don't want to go into all the details, but I will try to stick to major points.

I am Jeremiah Knight and I am the owner of The Reformation Resurgence Facebook page. This may come as a surprise to many, I am not an American but an Indian from the country of India. I am from the city called Madurai (also known as the temple city), in the state of Tamilnadu, located at the southern part of India.

I was born in a big joint traditional Hindu family, but from the beginning I had a liking towards Jesus. I never liked attending temples and praying to these hindu gods and goddess. I used to attend a Roman Catholic Church near my house. Then a family friend taught me about the errors of the RCC doctrine and invited me to attend his church. He used to attend a Pentecostal church and at that time since I knew nothing about the Bible, I agreed to go with him. This Pentecostal church was a classical Pentecostal one, so the preaching of holiness and living a life set apart from the world was emphasised a lot with the exception of Holy Spirit baptism and speaking in tongues. This church was also mission focused and we as a church were supporting many missionaries working in the northern part of India. Every month the first week was a mission week, where one of the missionaries that we support would come to our church and share their testimony praising God on how He is moving among people and when they are persecuted, how God protected them. We would all pray as a church and encourage them.

I used to spend most of the time with my church family attending conferences, going out distributing tracts, hospital and prison ministry, fasting and in all ministry that the church was involved in. Until now things were going smooth in both my personal and church life, until one day I decided to read the Bible.

BOOOOOOOOOM!!! . . . I realised that I was doing something wrong; I felt something shatter inside me. I was not able to pinpoint on what was happening in me but I knew that I am wrong somewhere. I was not in ease that week in church, I was not comfortable during worship seeing people jumping, screaming, rolling on the floor and blabbering and calling it tongues. I realised that I saw the same things also happening in the hindu temples. I asked myself, if Jesus is the true God why are these people doing the exact as these pagan worshippers, why is there no difference. I was troubled deeply and I put forward all that I had in my mind to the pastor that day. The pastor comforted me saying that the demons like to imitate the Holy Spirit and the hindu people are copying this from Christians for many years and he reasoned from Acts 2 with

me and told me not to question the ways of the Holy Spirit. I felt a bit comforted and said sorry God to question Your ways and went home. Within a few hours I again felt burdened and I became restless again and started praying. I called the pastor on phone and asked again are we doing things according to the Bible for which he again told me not to question the Holy Spirit and that a demon was making me to doubt God. He prayed for me and told me not to think on unnecessary things. I didn't want to question God but at the same time I knew that I am into error but I never stopped attending church.

I never felt like home in the church, like I used to before. I became sick one day and was not able to attend church one week. But when I went the next week, I was meet with staring eyes and no one wished me back when I wished them including the pastor and I was called a spy that day. The pastor had told the church the previous week I am speaking against God and I am involved with other churches and telling them secrets about this church. The sermon preached that day was against me and the members hurt me a lot and broke me into pieces. I had never expected this from my Christian brothers and sisters. I stopped attending this church. At the very same time my relatives cheated my mother of our property and put us into a huge debt. Those days were so painful that I never ever want to re-live that part of my life again. I was so desperate for a fellowship but I saw same thing happen in almost every church that I attended. You see in India especially in the state where I live, we have more Pentecostal churches than hindu temples. In every nook and corner, you will find an AG church. Personal and spiritual problems took a toll on me and at that young age of 18 and I had nowhere to go to seek guidance or comfort from either my own family or my spiritual family. This led me to seek comfort with my worldly friends and they made me drink in order to forget my pain.

As days passed, I started seeking comfort in alcohol and I started to drink heavily. I faced a lot of problems during those days and I don't want to go through all the details, I became addicted so much to alcohol that I was drunk 24/7. This was my life for 10 years and I had lost all hope on life because I knew that if I continued this lifestyle, I might only live for another 5-6 years but God had other plans. And on His appointed time, God led me through some situations which made me completely stop drinking. I am still in awe when I think about it. I was such a hard-core drinker, without any help or rehab I just stopped drinking one fine day. Soli Deo Gloria! God made me realise the many mistakes I was into and I repented of all those sins.

But God didn't stop there and had other plans for me, one day I came across a bible teaching on TV which impressed me a lot and I said to myself that I wish the learn about the Bible from this guy and I contacted him on phone. I shared all that had happened in my life and how God graciously brought me out alcoholism and he wanted to meet me. When I met him in person, he was so happy that he said I am not only ready to teach you but I want you to work for me. He was looking for a young and God-fearing guy to look after all the ministry work. He is one of the leading pastors in India and also well-known guy in other foreign countries. I was happy that I can learn and at the same time earn for my living and I agreed and shifted to his city.

I was given all the responsibilities of the ministry and made the English service pastor. I used to spend the whole day with him learning about the Bible and during that time I noticed some

strange teachings from him. He once on my birthday wished me and told me that, "God is called you to be an apostle and from now onwards you need to speak out things that your heart desires and they will come to pass." I jokingly told him to stop kidding but he was serious and told me to try it out. (This was my first experience of the NAR doctrine) After that he started teaching me all sorts of strange things which I had never heard or read in the Bible. When I started asking him to give me verses, he said, "I am in direct contact with God daily and He teaches me new things which are not in the Bible" and he added that the Bible is for babies in Christ and not for him because he has reached a higher level in spirituality. He once told me that when an average human speaks, his sound level is 60 decibels and when God spoke "Let there be light..." His decibel was around 560 and ultra-sonic. That is the level of sound needed to create things out of nothing and he is training himself to speak in that level. I lost it there and asked him do you think you are God? I questioned many of his teachings to which he immediately called his bodyguards and chased me out of his house and the next day shamed me in front of the congregation. I was broken again and I started going into depression. I asked God why Lord am I facing these kinds of pastors all my life, I have just come out of alcoholism and I am again stuck with a guy teaching all kinds of rubbish, is there not one who teaches Your truth.

My father's and mother's prayers brought me out of depression. This NAR pastor once spoke to me about an angel named "Emma" and that she was the financial angel of heaven and whenever he lacked money this angel would provide him with money. I wanted to know more about this angel to see if anyone else has spoken about this angel. So, I logged into YouTube and God out of His providence led me to a live streaming video, it was the "Strange Fire Conference" and the message was by Steve Lawson titled, "Puritan Commitment to Sola Scriptura." When the message was over, I was in tears on my knees asking God for forgiveness for wasting my life without knowing the truth. I watched all the videos in that conference and many of my doubts were cleared and I understood the Bible clearly and viewed the world from a Biblical perspective. I spent hours together learning about reformed theology, church history and puritans online and about the errors of Charismatics, NAR churches and a whole lot of cults and occults. John MacArthur and R. C. Sproul, by God's providence became my mentors. I watched many of their sermons and teaching series through which I gained more understanding on different Biblical doctrines. TULIP was not a hard pill to swallow because God led me in such a way that I lived the 5 points practically in my life and when I came across the Doctrines of Grace, I accepted them gladly.

I tried reaching out to my community but I was met with great hostility from other pastors and they stopped their church members from meeting me. They in their pastor meeting warned other pastors from nearby towns and villages to not encourage me and told them that I preach a doctrine from hell and I was a false teacher and demon possessed. I tried searching for a reformed fellowship but I found out that reformed people are a rare species in India and that I am the only reformed guy in my city. One day while praying I got an idea; why don't I reach my fellow Indians through the internet, no one can stop me there and when God can bring me the truth via YouTube, He can use Facebook to reach others. And that is how I started this page, "The Reformation Resurgence" The page was started with an aim to reach out fellow Indians

but God had other plans and He has today taken this page international which I didn't even dream of.

I am humbled as I look back in my life. I am a school dropout, a spoiled brat, an alcoholic, a useless and good for nothing guy to be exact. Today I readily boast with Paul, "If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness." (2 Corinthians 11:30). All Glory to God alone.

Thank you for reading my testimony. Please keep me in your prayers, that God would open doors to reach more souls with His truth in India.

Jeremiah Knight

"By the grace of God, I am what I am...." 1 Cor 15:10.

#MyTestimony #SoliDeoGloria