

THE OTHER STUFF OF LIFE – PART 1

A couple of months ago we went to TUT where Pastor Paul was going to give a talk to the students. I quite liked the title and the content of his talk. The title of his speech was “the other stuff” – he basically gave the students tools that they need to make it in life, over and above their academic qualifications.

Today the title of my message is motivated by that and I will be talking to you on a message entitled “THE OTHER STUFF OF LIFE”

I would like to equate the other stuff of life with packaging of a gift – I know that people say that don’t judge the book by its cover. But the cover matters quite a bit if you are to make in roads in certain areas.

When someone brings you a gift, the better the cover the more excited you are to open it up. Yes not everything that glitters is gold but sometimes the way things look on the outside have a reflection on what is inside.

Why is this important for us as believers? The way we present the gospel has a bearing on the way it will be received.

Before we dwell on the other stuff, I would like to briefly talk about the main thing, which is your faith in Jesus. There is no point in sorting out the other stuff of life when the main thing is missing. It will be equivalent to spending a lot of money on the finishes of a building when the foundation is not well designed.

Faith in Jesus is the main thing that you need in order to make it in life – nothing can replace it. You can have all the other stuff but without Jesus, your life is incomplete.

*2Pe 1:1-4 This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you who share the same **precious faith we have**. This faith was given to you because of the **justice and fairness of Jesus Christ**, our God and Savior. 2 May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. 3 **By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life**. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the One who called us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of His glory and excellence, **He has given us great and precious promises**. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.*

❖ Precious faith

- Anything that is precious has a great value attached to it.

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- It leads to the saving of your soul
- It gives you access to the father and everything that is His
- ❖ We have everything we need for life and for godliness
 - the high priestly work of Christ,
 - the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
 - the activity of angelic agencies on our behalf,
 - the new life we receive at conversion, and
 - the instruction of the word of God.
- ❖ He has given us great and precious promises
 - Though they are many, they are yes and amen
 - They give us access to His divine nature – victory over life dominating sin, over poverty and lack, over fear and turmoil

This is really exciting stuff because we have everything we need at our finger tips. My challenge is that very few people are walking victoriously.

The issue is not whether there is power in the name of Jesus or not; whether the blood of Jesus has lost its power or not. No, but the issue is the presentation of this good news to the people around you.

It does not matter how powerful your car engine is, if you cannot drive that car properly, you will never get to enjoy the power of that turbo charged V12 engine.

Take note: The way we live can render the gospel of no effect, not because the gospel has no power to change lives. The stuff that happens around the preaching of the gospel determines its outworking.

Jesus experienced this when he preached the gospel in his own town

Matthew 13:57 And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in Him. Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family." 58 And so He did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief.

The answer to that lies with what I would call the other stuff of life.

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Peter calls them *supplements*. In view of the faith you have received, your walk with the Lord, we must be diligent in cultivating it. God does not make us holy against our will or without our involvement. There must be desire, determination, and discipline on our part.

*2Pe 1:5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of **moral excellence***

1. Moral excellence

- ❖ It is simply defined as the quality in a person's life which makes them stand-out as excellent. It is a term of moral heroism, moral courage, moral excellence.
- ❖ A person's character is the sum of his or her disposition, thoughts, intentions, desires, and actions.
- ❖ Because mankind is born in sin and by nature the child of wrath, his natural tendency is toward moral degeneracy and every evil work, not moral excellency or virtue
- ❖ If there was ever a time that was in need of moral heroes, this would be the time. Our generation is very much like those described in the book of Judges where it says *that "everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* (Judges 21:25)
- ❖ Your character determines the weight behind your name – your name can either open doors for you or close doors before you.
- ❖ Why are people sued for defamation of character or character assassination – it is because character is what really matters
- ❖ Your gift can take you where your character might not sustain you.

Examples of moral excellence

*Galatians 5: 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. 19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.** There is no law against these things!*

- ❖ My focus will not be on the first portion of these scriptures but on the second part – your only way to live with moral excellence is to pay attention to the dos and not the don'ts
- ❖ When you do the dos, automatically the don'ts are taken care of.

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- ❖ Our aim must be to bring glory to God through our actions – when God is glorified in what we do, it will be easy for many people to come to Jesus.

1Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.