

Radical Bible Study #2

Read *Radical*, chapter 2
Matthew 7; John 3; Romans 1-5; Ephesians 2-3

Memorize: Matt. 7:21

Dig into God's Word

1. What are your impressions of the underground or "secret" church that Platt describes in chapter 2? Why do you think this works so well in other parts of the world? What would you think if Fellowship Church held a "Secret Church" service one Friday night this semester?
2. The gospel is "the revelation of who God is, who we are, and how we can be reconciled to him." Since we begin with the revelation of who God is, what does the Bible reveal about God's character?
3. Platt quotes the Psalms in saying that God hates sinners as well as their sin (e.g., Ps. 5:5). Does the New Testament also say that God hates sinners? Since John 3:16-21, 36 speaks of God's character very clearly, how does it shed light on how best to describe who God is? Is there a difference between saying that God hates sinners and saying God will judge and condemn sinners who refuse to repent? What do you think is the best way to communicate what the Bible says about God's character?
4. What is the basic human problem? Blatant sinfulness is easy to spot but what about subtle sinfulness? Can you give examples?
5. What happens when we misdiagnose our basic problem?
6. Platt says: "This is the gospel. The just and loving Creator of the universe has looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent his Son, God in the flesh, to bear his wrath against sin on the cross and to show his power over sin in the Resurrection so that all who trust in him will be reconciled to God forever." How should people respond to this gospel?
7. In what ways does salvation involve more than being forgiven for our sins or having a home in heaven when we die?