

The Heartbeat of Hope:
“The Good News Really Is Good News!”
Isaiah 52: 7; Matthew 4:23; Luke 4: 16-22; Galatians 1: 6-10

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“The church’s great news to a dying world is that there is a living God, whose love for his creation is inexhaustible . . . The church has no other and no better message. This is her great declaration.”

- Lewis Allen

“The world is drowning in its efforts at life; it does not need lifeguards who swim to it carrying barbells.”

- Robert Farrar Capon

“The religious see God as useful; gospel-believing Christians see God as beautiful.” - Tim Keller

“I am throwing all my good works overboard, and lashing myself to the plank of free grace; for I hope to swim to glory on it.” - Charles Spurgeon

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- What is your relationship like with the church’s mission, vision, and value statements?
 - Did you know that Hope has them?
 - What stands out to you from them? What is helpful? What is unclear or not helpful?
- How does living in a “bad news” world encroach upon and effect your life and your faith?
- The language of “good news” and “gospel” can become cliched and a little shopworn at times.
 - How is the “good news of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom” unique?
 - How is it distinct from just being positive and trying to see the good things in the world?
- How does the goodness of the Good News get lost for Christians in general and for you personally?
- The sermon asserted that the Gospel is:
 - News not instruction:
 - Why is declaration of the good news the only and best message of the church (see Lewis Allen’s quotation above)?
 - Where are you merely looking for and settling for instructions (see Tim Keller’s quotation above)?
 - Believed not improved upon:
 - Why do we try to improve upon the simplicity and freedom of the Gospel? How?
 - Relief not imposition:
 - How is the Gospel relieving you and giving you rest?