

Power, Love and Processing Fear

5 Statements – Awake, Arise, Count it all joy, *No eye has seen, the eyes of the Lord.*

Aug 22 – Albuquerque. Paul & Ruth Aug 29 – Randy Bryan -

Sept 11 – Remembering the heroes. Celebrating the resilience of free people. Citizens not subjects. Remembering the moments and days.

Anne's reflections –

I. Gospel — Power to Save — [slide 1]

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **it** is the power of God for salvation **to** everyone who believes, to the **Jew** first and also to the **Greek**. **17** For in it the **righteousness of God** is **revealed from** faith **for** faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

GOSPEL the POWER OF God for SALVATION

Righteousness of God – He keeps His relational promises; keeps the intentions of covenant.

This answers the question: **What is at the center of the universe?** It is not atoms in motion or a karmic cycle or an infinite void or an omnipotent despot (absolute power, tyrant)

What is at the center of the universe is a personal relationship, that is, a loving relationship among persons.

At its deepest level, this startling fact points to the loving, interpenetrating relationships among the trinitarian persons — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

It also means that human beings were created out of the dynamics of that relationship and for the sake of that relationship.

II. LOVE at the CENTER

Humans were created **from** love **for** love. We love before we believe or trust. We love and believe before we think.

Three Guides in finding LOVE

Imagination — Beauty

Reason — Truth

Conscience — Goodness

A. Love, Obedience and Joy

John 15: 9 **As** the Father has loved me, **so** have I loved you. **Abide** in **my** love. **10** **If** you **keep** my commandments, you will abide in my love, **just as** I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** These things I have spoken to you, that **my joy** may be in you, and that **your joy** may be **full**.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

B. Love

1**John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever **loves** has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not **love** does not know God, because God is love. **[slide 2]**

9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might **live through him**. **[slide 3]**

10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is **perfected** in us.

16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever **abides** in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **17** By this is love **perfected** with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because **as he is so also are we in this world**. **18** There is no fear in love, but **perfect love casts out fear**. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. **19** We love because he first loved us.

When we reject the Creator we replace TRUTH with a lie.

What has replaced God as the self-existent, eternal reality that is the origin of everything else? Pantheism (a force), Materialism (matter & energy, physics, chemistry, biology, humanity)

III. Processing Waves of Trouble

A. Be Alert

Matt. 26:36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called [slide 9] Gethsemane, [slide 4]... **40** And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? **41** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Ps 22:11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near and there is none to help. [slide 5]

Psa. 46:1 God is our refuge* and strength‡, a **very present help** in trouble. [slide 6]

* We are in Him ‡ He is in us

ALERT PRAYER – RECOGNIZING SNARES & TRAPS

AWAKE FROM FEAR, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, ISOLATION, JOB LOSSES, MANDATED SHOTS, MASKS

Prov 12:25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a **good word** makes him glad.

Anxiety is a downer.

Prov 29:25 The **fear** of man lays a snare, but whoever **trusts** in the LORD is safe. (NET — set on high)

Fearing what people think controls our life. Faith lifts us up.

Avett Brothers

Ain't no man- can save me

There ain't no man- can enslave me

B. Change Focus

Matt. 6:25 “Therefore I tell you, **do not be anxious** about your life, what you will **eat** or what you will **drink**, nor about your **body**, what you will **put on**. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

ANXIETY focuses on myself, my situation, all the weaknesses and situations that threaten.

26 Look* at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not of more value than they?** [slide 7]

*gaze upon, process by consideration of the aspects of

27 And which of you **by being anxious** can add a single hour to his span of life?

28 And why are you anxious about **clothing**? **Consider*** the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, **29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, **will he not much more clothe you**, O you of little faith?

* examine; learn thoroughly

31 Therefore **do not be anxious**, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. [provision, protection — basic needs]

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 “Therefore **do not be anxious** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

C. God Keeps His Promises

Gen 28:16 Then Jacob **awoke** from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.”

D. Processing the Graves into Gardens

Phil. 4:4 **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your **reasonableness** be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

6 **do not be anxious** about **anything**, but in **everything** by **prayer** and **supplication**† with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [slide 8]

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses* all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. † **processing, begging, urgency, etc.**

***transcends, continuously governs, is better than,**

AMP [... that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, ... fearing nothing from God and being content ... that peace]... shall garrison *and* mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

III. DECLARING the PEACE OF God

Rom 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

2Kings 13:21 And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched the **bones of Elisha**, he **revived** and **stood on his feet**.

Processing grief, disappointment

Stay in Love

Refuse Fear

Stay out of self-righteous judgment

Stand fast in the liberty

Don't loses hope

Don't lose joy (honor and gratitude)