

Regarding Transformation...

“Jesus went throughout Galilee teaching in their synagogues, *preaching the good news of the kingdom...*” (Matthew 4:23; 9:35; Luke 4:43; 8:1). His message did not change in three years of public ministry. If we fail to include the kingdom, repentance, and growth in kingdom living in the good news we preach today, we reduce and alter the message of Jesus and are guilty of devising a different gospel.

The message of the gospel over the past fifty years has increasingly emphasized the access door to the kingdom instead of what is behind the door... as though getting saved is all there is to it. We have worked so hard at marketing the entrance that it has itself become the gospel. But the “pearl of great price” is living in and inheriting the kingdom of God, not merely entering it.

What this overemphasis has produced is a generation of believers who think the issue is getting in and getting others in. Recruiting. Not training. Not much attention is paid to what they are getting into – a whole new way of life. The **transformation process** is severely weakened in those who accept salvation without understanding the significance of the kingdom component. We now have a gospel that changes us only a little, or not at all. It’s no secret that we have a gigantic problem with non-following believers inside and outside our churches.

Jesus did not call the cross or His death and resurrection the good news. For Jesus, the kingdom was the good news. The atonement, reconciliation, redemption, justification and propitiation are all essential ingredients of the gospel, but the theme of the good news is the rest, freedom, peace, and high investment value of living life under the leadership of the Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth. Plan to join us as we seek our great King and rediscover His Transformational kingdom message together in Rochester.

Your fellow servant,

Tom Mouw