

“A Doxology of Great Joy!” (Jude 24-25)

Sermon Reflection Questions

Why is it helpful to return to the basics of the gospel from time to time? How do you see this in Jude’s short doxology?

Why do you think this statement is true: “*as our theology deepens, our doxology deepens*”? How have you seen this in your own spiritual life and Christian growth?

Casper Olevianus (a German theologian and reformer from the 1500’s) wrote: *You are not saying, then, that good works are useless? Answer: They do not serve to make us right with God, either wholly or in part, but they do serve this purpose: after we have been freely and graciously justified through the imputation of Christ’s righteousness, we show with good works that we are thankful to God the Lord, so that God might be praised through us.* How does this help you better understand the relationship between the gospel of grace and our good works?

Respond to this statement by Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones: *“To make it quite practical I have a very simple test. After I have explained the way of Christ to somebody I say “Now, are you ready to say that you are a Christian?” And they hesitate. And then I say, “What’s the matter? Why are you hesitating?” And so often people say, “I don’t feel like I’m good enough yet. I don’t think I’m ready to say I’m a Christian now.” And at once I know that I have been wasting my breath. They are still thinking in terms of themselves. They have to do it. It sounds very modest to say, “Well, I don’t think I’m good enough,” but it’s a very denial of the faith. The very essence of the Christian faith is to say that He is good enough and I am in Him. As long as you go on thinking about yourself like that and saying, “I’m not good enough; Oh, I’m not good enough,” you are denying God – you are denying the gospel – you are denying the very essence of the faith and you will never be happy. You think you’re better at times and then again you will find you are not as good at other times than you thought you were. You will be up and down forever.*

Why are you glad that you have a Savior who will “keep you from stumbling” and “who will present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy”? Why is this such good news for you when you think about your own relationship with God over the years?