



Vantage Point

You were made for Him – known and loved!

January 2015

This Month's Gospel Message

Personal Message from Eric Johnson

Nothing is more obvious than the need for change in us and others. Adults want to change their circumstances, appetites, relationships, careers, situations, health, habits, and attitudes. We make resolutions every year, but we usually can't remember what they were a year later. Our world offers many alternative theories of change that lead us away from Jesus and His grace. However, change that does not involve the mind, heart, will, and motives will fail. Real, fruitful, permanent change requires the resources of God, His Word, His Spirit, and Jesus' transforming power and grace. One pastor wrote concerning believers, "Your hope for change is a humble heart that finds joy in, and is faithful to, a day-by-day, step-by-step process of insight, confession, repentance, and faith." Jesus came to save the world.

Our mission seeks to extend His grace to all adults and help them explore and mature in their faith.

Happy New Year,

Eric

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Jesus' encounter with a demon-possessed man provides a paradigm of life-transforming change for adults. Jesus asked the man his name. "My name is Legion for we are many," was the reply. The name was a military name, descriptive of the Evil One's opposition to Jesus.

- The man was in bondage.
- His life was dominated by evil spirits.
- He was utterly alone.
- He could not be controlled or subdued by others, even with chains.
- He would cut himself with stones.
- He was incapable of changing himself.

This man graphically illustrates the horrible predicament of mankind apart from Jesus.

Effective change must begin with Jesus. The gospel speaks with hope and encouragement for change. Jesus dealt with the legion of demons in this man's life, releasing him from the bondage that would have ultimately destroyed him. Jesus rescued him from himself and made him whole. He was no longer out of

control, tormented, and violent. Now, not all mankind are demon-possessed; yet, by nature, all mankind are ruled by dark and sinister forces. Jesus, thereby, demonstrated what could happen in anyone's life. He saved the man from the bondage of his sin.

The Son of God entered the world and was rejected. His perfect life was marred by the worst horrors that mankind could conceive. Jesus was stripped naked, beaten by men, cut by their lashes, and pierced by nails. He was deserted by His friends. On the cross Jesus was forsaken by His Father. He received unjust, inhumane, and evil treatment; yet He stood fast and loved His Father. He was killed and buried in a tomb. Why? So that by His death and resurrection, Jesus could secure our salvation, and thereby, the potential for continuing permanent change for those who believe in Him.

Change is a lifelong journey. Consider joining us this year.

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Mission Update

Adult Life is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry relying on private support — and your generosity. Your gifts are investments in the biblical counseling, discipleship, and evangelism of people who may have little hope, and need more faith. Please consider joining us now with a monthly investment. Adult Life is now doing business as Vantage Point Ministries – Enjoying Life from the Vantage Point of God’s Grace. Use the enclosed coupon and envelope and make checks payable to “Vantage Point” or “Adult Life.”

Thank you! We are blessed by your friendship and support.

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Prayer for local mission with adults...

Eric & Jenny Johnson

Extending God’s grace to all adults & helping them explore and mature in faith

Men & Women meeting in small groups will abound in love

Counseling Clients will experience His power, love, and resurrection

Eric’s doctorate work on evangelism in the church

Thankful for your partnership in this important ministry with adults

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