

CrossWalk NOTES

Life Out of the Box

How the Resurrection Frees Us...

From the Box of Criticism

May 3, 2009 – Jeff Gunn

¹²We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. ¹³We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you. ¹⁴We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. ¹⁵Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, ¹⁶so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory. ¹⁷But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." ¹⁸For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (2 Corinthians 10:12-18, NIV)

⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. (2 Corinthians 4:8-10, NIV)

The apostle Paul followed a _____ Christ, not a _____ Christ!

⁸Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. ⁹Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. (Proverbs 9:8-9, NIV)

Our living Savior teaches that our critics can be our _____.

¹⁰Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice. (Proverbs 13:10, NIV)

Our living Savior teaches that _____ only gets in the way of learning.

²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:22-24, NIV)

Our living Savior teaches us to _____ ourselves to himself, for he judges justly.

1. Jesus is _____! This allows us to accept criticism _____.

¹¹Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. (2 Corinthians 5:11, NIV)

Always remember, God knows what's really _____!

⁴³You have delivered me from the attacks of the people; you have made me the head of nations; people I did not know are subject to me... ⁴⁶The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior! (Psalm 18:43,46, NIV)

Always remember, God ultimately deserves the _____!

¹Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. (2 Corinthians 4:1, NIV)

Always remember, God's _____ will help you stay the course!

2. Jesus is _____! This allows us to answer criticism _____.

My next steps in the "Cross-Walk":

- Ask yourself: What great lessons have I learned from my toughest critics? Do I need greater humility or boldness as I hear criticism?
- Choose a growth group and get signed up today. Handling criticism is easier when you're surrounded by love and wisdom.
- Meditate on and memorize 2 Corinthians 10:17-18.