

TRANSMITTING THE GOSPEL

Psalm 78:1-8

Introduction: The church in America has not successfully passed the gospel from one generation to another (illus. Rainer, The Bridger Generation). Fewer and fewer children and youth are following Christ after high school (if then).

The early part of the Psalm (vv.1-8) calls for a clear transmission of God's Word from one generation to another. At least three questions are answered with regard to the transfer of the gospel.

- I. WHO is primarily responsible for transmitting the gospel?
 - A. OUR FATHERS have told US (vv.3, 5b)
 - Psalm 44:1
 - B. WE must tell OUR CHILDREN (vv.4b, 6a)
 - Deut. 6:6-7
 - C. OUR CHILDREN must tell THEIR CHILDREN (v.6b)
 - Psalm 22:30-31
- II. WHAT IS IT EXACTLY, that we are responsible to transmit?
 - A. We are responsible to pass on the WORD OF GOD (vv. 2b, 5a)
 - Psalm 19:7-8
 - B. We are responsible to pass on the WORSHIP OF GOD (v.4c)
 - Psalm 71:6c, 14b
 - C. We are responsible to pass on the WORK OF GOD (vv.4d, 7b)
 - Psalm 71:17
 - Philippians 2:13
- III. WHY IS THE GOSPEL NOT TRANSMITTED?

(notice the four negative characteristics that contribute to our negligence in transmitting the gospel to the next generation:)

 - A. Because of the STUBBORNNESS of the previous generation (v.8a)
 - Deut. 9:6
 - Psalm 81:12-13
 - B. Because of the REBELLION of the previous generation (v.8b)
 - Psalm 78:40
 - C. Because of the HEARTLESS COMMITMENT of the previous generation (v.8c).
 - Psalm 78:37
 - Psalm 51:10
 - Isaiah 29:13
 - D. Because of the UNFAITHFULNESS of the previous generation (v.8d)
 - Psalm 74:27

CONCLUSION. This Psalm shows us the importance and urgency of passing on the gospel story from one generation to the next.

The Psalm closes with a powerful prayer for a revival of gospel transmission. "Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. O Lord God of hosts, restore us; cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved." (Ps. 80:18-19) — rrc