

Sunday, July 5, 2015
Did You Know?

The Gospel Coalition, Ontario

Ten years ago, as the result of a conversation between two Christian leaders, The Gospel Coalition (TGC) was formed. Those two leaders were Pastor Tim Keller and scholar Dr. Don Carson. Everyone knows Tim Keller so I won't mention anything about him, but not everyone knows D.A. Carson. It would not be an understatement to say that he is one of the most respected New Testament scholars of our generation, having written an authoritative commentary on John's gospel, a plethora of books and currently teaches at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, my alma mater.

The Gospel Coalition is distinctively reformed in their theology, meaning that we make our direct connection to the Reformers of the 16th century like John Calvin and Martin Luther. The Reformation occurred as a response to errant Catholic theology and practice. Theologically speaking, to be reformed means to be Calvinistic (following John Calvin). What does that mean? It means we believe in the five points of Calvinism, which are often stated in the acrostic, TULIP.

Total Depravity (or radical corruption)
Unconditional Election (or sovereign election)
Limited Atonement (or definite redemption)
Irresistible Grace (or effectual grace)
Perseverance of the Saints (or preservation of the saints)

You can learn more by watching the video series "What is Reformed Theology" by R.C. Sproul on rightnow.org, which I highly recommend.

In any case, TGC is not a denomination. It would probably be best to call it a movement of individuals and churches worldwide that share an affinity in the Reformed tradition of our Christian faith and exists as a place for like-minded folks to gather and grow, primarily at their well-resourced website, but also at their biannual conference.

All this to say that the Ontario chapter of TGC is having their bi-annual conference this October 16-17, right here at City on a Hill. Featured speakers will include D.A. Carson, John Neufeld (Back to the Bible Canada), Robbie Symons (Harvest Bible Chapel, Oakville), and Mark Clark (Village Church, Surrey). Our own Rev. Song will be giving a historical account of the great Korean Revival of 1907. The conference theme is "Revival" from the book of Isaiah. The planning team, of which I am a part, prayerfully discerned that this is what our nation and our churches need more than anything else, that is, a sovereign work of God bringing people back to himself. Though all may attend the conference, it is geared toward church leaders such as pastors, elders, deacons and seminarians. I hope many of you will consider taking the 16th off to attend this gathering. More information and registration can be found at <http://ontario.thegospelcoalition.org/>.

Pastor Peter