

Dr. Seuss and the Gospel

The man behind the Dr. Seuss phenomenon, Theodor Seuss Geisel, never spoke much about faith. But his books of nonsensical poetry are a blessing to people all across the world.

Perhaps today we can apply some of his writing to scripture, and to the Christian faith. If this wrapping is helpful to you dear reader, take it and share it with others, as I encourage you to do each week.

So we begin with you, and you is good. It's a good place to start, for it makes us all smart.

Dr. Seuss says. "Today you are you! That is truer than true! There is no one alive who is you-er than you!"

God makes us all the same, and yet very different. We are unique, one of a kind, and yet God give us similarities. Celebrate the fact that God has made you just the way you are, and is in the process of making you who he wants you to be today.

Find the exclamation point that you can put on the world, and let God bless others through the personality, faith, and imagination that he has given you. There's no one like you, and that can be good, for only you can provide the you kind of food.

There are just some things we do not like. And there are things, like sin, that we must stay away from. Dr. Seuss is quite clear about likes and dislikes. We all know Sam does not like green eggs and ham.

"I will not eat them in a house," says Sam. "I will not eat them with a mouse, I will not eat them in a box I will not eat them with a fox, I will not eat them here of there I will not eat them anywhere, I do not like green eggs and ham I do not like them Sam I am."

And then there is the brain God has given us. We must use the gift of thought that God has given us to find good things and go away from the bad. Christianity does not call us not to think and figure, but we must beware of thinking that we know everything, or thinking we know more than God. So let's use our brains, but leave all things to God.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own, and you know what you know. And you are the guy who'll decide where to go."

Don't let anyone talk you in to anything you know you shouldn't do. And take responsibility for making life wonderful, as you follow God's heavenly wisdom.

We are all guilty of sadness in the midst of things that are wonderful. Let God adjust our attitudes so we can find joy, and good in all things. As the good doctor says, “Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.” What a difference it can make!

Sometimes we think we can retire from doing God's work. It is my experience that the older we get and the more we live, the deeper our faith can be. So let us use the gifts and knowledge God has given us to build up the church, to share the gospel, and do something good for someone else. Perhaps we should start with children. As Dr. Seuss puts it,

“You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.”

We must do our part to pass on faith to others. We are today's disciples, and God has charged us with telling others about Jesus. If that faith stays inside, it becomes stagnant and old. If we share it, again and again, it becomes fresher, new, and a blessing on the way in and out.

Don't blame others for the way things are. Let God use you to make things better.

“Unless someone like you,” writes the good doctor, “cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

We must look at the choices God gives us, and give thanks for the fact that they are so many and so good. Presbyterians have a saying, “moderation in all things,” and I think others like it as well. This means we try to steer away from extremes, and do our best to serve God and use common sense that he gave us as well. “Step with care and great tact, and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act.” ~Dr. Seuss.

We look at life in prose, where every letter and word fits nicely together, or try to look at it as poetry. The poems of Dr. Seuss have turned into books, movies, and television series. They can help us to look at life a little differently, but we must turn to the greatest book, God's holy word, the Bible to find faith's answers.

And we conclude with a word from Dr. Seuss we would all do well to heed.

“I meant what I said and I said what I meant.”