



river west church

God in the Mix

1 Peter 1:6-9

Pastor Guy Gray

11.18.2012

Christian faith messes with your mind. It works its way into your thinking and changes you. It tweaks the way you look at things – everything: your world, your life, your past, your future. It even changes the way you look at the pain in your life, your hurts, your suffering.

Here's how it works. God enters our world in Christ and nothing is ever quite the same. Yes, all the hurts and challenges of life remain. The world is still broken. It's not that God takes away all the bad stuff (not yet). He doesn't change our world by taking away the pain. He changes our world by entering into it. He inserts himself.

He did this in Jesus Christ in history. He does it in our lives right here and now through Jesus Christ the risen Lord. I know, that's a big idea – it's outrageous. Does it mess with your mind? Does it capture your imagination? Does it move your heart? Do you get it?

For those who believe in Jesus this is life-changing truth. It changes everything. It's what I call "God in the Mix."

Take the "mix" of your life – all of it – the good and the bad. Without God in the mix where do you stand? Where is your hope? What's the purpose? How do you deal with the hurts of life?

Now take your life and put God in the mix. Everything changes.

Christian faith is God in the mix. Not because you or I decide to put Him there, but because He took the initiative to come to us in Jesus Christ.

This is the message of 1 Peter. It's joy beyond words, even in the hurts and hardships of life; all because of Jesus the risen Lord. That's God in the mix. Peter writes to open our eyes, to build our faith, and to spark our joy. Peter tells us about Jesus – what He has done and how faith in Him changes our lives and our world.

Let's dive deep in this gospel truth!