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Where's the Good News?

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteous of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" Romans 1:16-17

A quick survey of headlines in the newspaper today doesn't seem to offer a lot of good news. Here are just a few of them:

- Fighting rages in Damascus suburbs
- Trial begins for 5 in India gang rape
- Egypt protests leave dozens injured
- Various Europeans urged to flee Benghazi

That's just a list of a few from two pages of the paper. I do understand that it is usually the bad news that winds up being reported. A man can walk past his local bank every day for 10 years and never make the paper. But if in the eleventh year he stops in to rob the bank he is likely to hit the front pages of the local paper. I know that the paper is in the business of reporting important news, and it is just the nature of newspapers to report the robbery and not the non-robbery. This isn't to say that we never read any good news in our papers. We do. But the bad news seems to merit more attention.

I just scanned through the paper again to see what good news I could find. There are several upbeat pieces in the sports section but there were only a few "hopefuls" scattered throughout the rest of the paper. One headline reads: U.S. sugar supply surges; prices to drop. That's good news. Another reads: Real Estate Market Ends 2012 On High Note. That reflects a little glimmer of hope. This last one puts a smile on my face: Burger King drops possible horse source; this story begins, "London: Burger King said Thursday it has stopped buying beef from an Irish meat processor whose patties were found to contain traces of horsemeat." I'm not sure if that is better news for the horses in Ireland or for the customers in Burger King!!

But where is the really good news? I think we have to agree with the Wisdom of Solomon in Ecclesiastes when he said, "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." As Solomon considered the wisdom of the world, the pleasure, great accomplishments, popularity and wealth, he concluded that life under the sun (here on the earth) is a chasing after wind. If we are looking for heaven on earth, it will never be found. All of the heroes of faith concurred with Abraham, "...for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). The really good news is in the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the gospel we are given a righteousness that is a part of God's purpose and plan. In the gospel we find a blessed hope for all eternity. The really good news is that Jesus loves you and he has made plans for your future with him.

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." Matthew 14:1-2