

SESSION #2

Some Good News about the Gospel (for Spiritual Leaders)

4 Truths

...about the gospel that spiritual leaders do well to discern

#1 The Gospel is the _____ of God.

A. The Power of the Gospel:

- 1) Romans 1:16. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God **into salvation** to everyone who is believing....”
 - A) Romans 10:1. “My heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them [the Jews] is **into salvation**.”
 - B) 1 Peter 2:2. “long for the pure milk of the [gospel] word, so that by it you may grow **into salvation**.”
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:18. “For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing; but to us who are continuously being saved, it is the power of God.”

B. The powerlessness of the _____.

- 1) Romans 8:3. “. . . what the **Law** could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (4) so that the righteousness of the **Law** might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”
- 2) Romans 7:5. “. . . while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions . . . were aroused by the **Law**”
- 3) From John Bunyan. “*Run and work the **Law** demands, but gives me neither feet nor hands. A sweeter sound the gospel brings, it bids me fly and gives me wings.*”

C. The powerlessness of the _____ & human resolution.

Romans 7. “(18) the **desire** [to keep the Law] is present in me . . . (19) **I want** to do good . . . (19) **I do not want** to do evil . . . (20) **I do not want** to do evil . . . (21) **I want** to do good . . . [YET] . . . (15) I am not practicing what I would like to do, but am doing the very thing I hate . . . (16) I do the very thing I do not want to do . . . (19) the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want . . . (20) I am doing the very thing I do not want.”

D. The powerlessness of modern _____ & education:

#2 The Gospel is for us _____, too.

A. Romans 1:16. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God into salvation to **everyone who is believing...**”

B. 1 Corinthians 1:18. “For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing; but **to us who are being saved**, it is the power of God.”

C. Romans 1:15. “So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel [εὐαγγελισσασθαι] to **you** who are at Rome...”

D. 1 Corinthians 15:1. “Now I make known to you, brethren, the **gospel**, which I **gospelled** to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, (2) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word I **gospelled** to you.... (3) For I delivered to you as of first importance . . .”

1) E
xample #1. How to deal with unrepentant sin in the church.

1 Cor. 5:7. “Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”

2) E
xample #2. Addressing Immorality.

1 Cor. 6. “(15) Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! (16) Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. (19) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (20) For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.”

3)

E

xample #3. How to treat a weaker brother.

1 Cor. 8. “(10) For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol’s temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? (11) For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.”

E. Eph. 4:11-12. “He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as **evangelists**, and some as pastors and teachers (12) for the **equipping** (καταρτισμων) of the saints”

“equipping” = “_____” (Matt. 4:21)

“_____” (Gal. 6:1)

“equip” “resource” & “train”

F. Ephesians, Colossians, Romans, Galatians

#3 The Gospel is the premium instrument God uses to enrich & _____ us daily.

Acts 20:32. “And now I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which continuously has power to edify you, and **to give you an inheritance** among all those which are sanctified.”

A. Power to enrich you. “which continuously has power to . . . give you an inheritance among all those which are sanctified”

B. Power to edify you.

Acts 20:32. “And now I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which continuously is able to **edify** [οικοδομησαι] you, and to give you an inheritance among all those which are sanctified.”

Genesis 2:22. “And the Lord God **edified** [ωκοδομησεν] into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man.”

#4 There are some simple and delicious ways that we can unleash the power of the gospel in our own life and in the lives of those we seek to lead.

A. _____ at it, & call others to do the same.

1 John 3:1. “SEE how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God, and such we are.”

2 Corinthians 3:18. “But we all, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

“Beholding is a way of becoming.” (John Piper)

2 Corinthians 4. “(3) But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

“The cross is the blazing center of God’s glory.” (John Piper)

B. _____ on it, & call others to do the same.

1 Peter. “(23) for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring **word** of God. (24) For all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, (25) but the **word** of the Lord endures forever. And this is the **word** which was **gospelled** to you. (2:1) Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, (2) like newborn babes, be strongly craving the pure milk of the **word**, so that by **it** you may grow into salvation. (3) if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”

C. _____ it, & call others to do the same.

Hebrews 4:2. “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”

D. Memorize, meditate on, & _____ Gospel-laden passages of Scripture.

Colossians 3:16. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, speaking to **yourselves....**”

Examples. Ephesians 1-3, Colossians 1-3, Romans 5-8, Isaiah 53, Titus 3:1-8, etc.!

“meditate” (Ps. 1:2; Josh. 1:8)

E. Position yourself to experience the gospel in _____ with others (in the church)

Acts 20:32. “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace [the gospel], which continuously has power to edify you and to give you the inheritance **among all those** who are sanctified.”

Ephesians 3. “(17) [I pray that] Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) may be able to comprehend **with all saints** what is the breadth and length and height and depth, (19) and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge”

2 Timothy 4:5. “Do the work of an evangelist”

1 Thessalonians 4:18. “Encourage one another with these words.”

F. _____ God with the gospel.

1 Peter 1. “(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you....” (*see also Eph. 1:3ff*)

G. _____ the gospel at every God-given opportunity (giving, forgiving, sacrificing, adopting, extending hospitality, etc.)

H. See every circumstance against the backdrop of the _____ that you deserve.

I. Preach the gospel to _____.