

Gospel Purpose

SECTION 6: NOTES

The Power of the Gospel: Review

Thorns/Fruit: In light of past, present, future grace, what is one area of thorns you long to see become fruit?

Root: What is the fear, idol, or lie underneath the thorns? What are you believing instead of the gospel?

Gospel: Is there a specific truth of the gospel that if deeply believed and truly experienced would change you?

The Purpose of the Gospel

Review the Story: What are the 4 scenes? How is this this summary helpful? What does it emphasize? (p.48-49)

How does knowing the Storyline and our place in it affect our understanding and living out of Christian life?

Jesus' invitation to us, not our invitation to Him: how does this shape our vision of personal growth?

Jesus' invitation to lose our life for his sake and the gospel's: what does this mean for our life's purpose?

Hans Rookmaaker: Jesus didn't come to make us Christian; Jesus came to make us fully human.

Matt 28.16-20: What do the disciples believe about Jesus at this point? What have they seen & experienced?

What is he commissioning his disciples to do? *Go make disciples, baptize, teach them to obey like Jesus*

How did Jesus make disciples? *Preached the gospel, taught, gathered a community around himself & his mission*

How do they fulfill the Great Commission in Acts? *Preached the gospel and formed missional communities*

Video: What is the picture of the church that is displayed here? Are these disciple-making churches?

The Challenge of Mission

Richard Lovelace: The 'ultimate concern' of most church members is not the worship and service of Christ in evangelistic mission and social compassion, but rather survival and success in their secular vocation. The church is a spoke on the wheel of life connected to the secular hub. It is a departmental sub-concern, not the organizing center of all other concerns. Church members who have been conditioned all their lives to devote themselves to building their own kingdom and whose flesh naturally gravitates in that direction anyway find it hard to invest much energy in the kingdom of God. They go to church once or twice a week and punch the clock, so to speak, fulfilling their 'church obligation' by sitting passively and listening critically or approvingly to the pastor's teaching. Sometimes with great effort they can be maneuvered into some active role in the church's program, like a trained seal in a circus act, but their hearts are not fully in it.

DNA: How have you seen this in your own heart? In your community? How does the gospel free you?

The Hope of Mission

Titus 3.1-11: Who is God and what is He like? What has he done? Who are we? How do we live?

Leslie Newbigin: There has been a long tradition which sees the mission of the Church primarily as obedience to a command. It has been customary to speak of 'the missionary mandate.' This way of putting the matter is certainly not without justification, and yet it seems to me that it misses the point. It tends to make mission a burden rather than a joy, to make it part of the law rather than part of the gospel. If one looks at the New Testament evidence one gets another impression. Mission begins with a kind of explosion of joy. The news that the rejected and crucified Jesus is alive is something that cannot possibly be suppressed. The mission of the Church... is more like the fallout from a vast explosion, a radioactive fallout which is not lethal but life-giving.

Our Hope: deep gospel renewal that frees and propels and compels a life submitted to Jesus and on his mission
Living in the power of the gospel (resources) for the purpose of the gospel (disciple-making)
Learning to apply the gospel to every area of life, bringing life under the gracious reign of the Lord Jesus
Helping others do the same, by word and deed, both within the Christian community and beyond

Together: Would God's Story make sense if your life was inserted in the middle of the book of Acts?
Anything less than a life wholly re-arranged around gospel, community, and mission is slavery for you!
Anything less than being a disciple who makes disciples is less than the abundant life Jesus purchased for you!

DNA: Share your personal mission statements - How will you respond to the power and purpose of the gospel?
Are there activities & rhythms of your life that need to be redeemed & lived with gospel intentionality?
Are there activities & rhythms that need to be cut or added in order to live with gospel intentionality?

Milton Vincent: The gospel... not only reminds me of the love of God for me, but it also reminds me of the love of God for the works that He has saved me to perform. When I see the Cross, I see the premium that God places on the works that He has prepared for me. How valuable all of these must be if Christ would die so that I might now perform them! And how precious are those for whom these works are done if Christ would die that they might be served!