



The Power of the Gospel

SECTION 2: NOTES

The Message of the Bible: 2 Perspectives

Thematically: Across the Grain (the power of the gospel)

God | Sin | Jesus | Faith (not works)

Q: What is the good news?

Jesus lived the life I should have and died the death I deserved, restoring me to God forever. (Billy Graham)

As a Story: Along the Grain (the purpose of the gospel)

Creation -> Fall -> Redemption -> Restoration

Q: What is the good news?

Through Jesus, God is healing the world from the effects of sin and making all things new. (Mother Theresa)

The Power of the Gospel and the Purpose of the Gospel

What happens if a church fails to hold both aspects of the gospel together?

What happens if a church works to embrace both ways of understanding the gospel?

Power 1: We Have Been Saved From the Penalty of Sin

Romans 3.9-20: Bad news about our righteousness?

Romans 3.21-26: Good news about the righteousness of God?

Romans 4.4-5: Craziest verses in the Bible!

Diagram: The Christian Life

Ideal Path: the cross looms larger!

How We Short-circuit:

Performing:

Ways you prove/perform? p.16-17

Gospel truth: The body of Jesus

Pretending:

Ways you pretend/hide? p.18

Gospel truth: The blood of Jesus

DNA: What specific sin do you need to repent of? What specific gospel truth to you need to rejoice in?

Quotes: Justified by Grace

Martin Luther: Learn to know Christ and him crucified. Learn to sing to him and say, "Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.

Richard Hooker: Such we are in the sight of God the Father, as is the very Son of God himself. Let it be counted folly or frenzy or fury or whatsoever. It is our wisdom and our comfort; we care for no knowledge in the world but this, that man has sinned and God has suffered; that God has made himself the sin of men, and we the righteousness of God.

J.I. Packer : There is unspeakable comfort, the sort of comfort that energizes, in knowing that God is constantly taking knowledge of me in love and watching over me for my good. There is tremendous relief in knowing that his love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me so that no discovery now can disillusion him about me - in the way I am so often disillusioned with myself - and quench his determination to bless me. There is certainly great cause for humility in the thought that he sees all the twisted things about me that my fellow men do not see, and that he sees more twisted corruption in me than I see in myself. There is however equally great incentive to worship and love God in the thought that for some unfathomable reason he wants me as his friend and desires to be my friend and has given his Son to die for me in order to realize this purpose.

Bono: You see, at the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, or in physics; in physical laws every action is met by an equal or an opposite one. It's clear to me that Karma is at the very heart of the universe. I'm absolutely sure of it. And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that "as you reap, so you will sow" stuff. Grace defies reason and logic. Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done a lot of stupid stuff. I'd be in big trouble if Karma was going to finally be my judge. It doesn't excuse my mistakes, but I'm holding out for Grace. I'm holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don't have to depend on my own religiosity.

Discover, Nurture, Act (DNA)

D: Read Prodigal sons story in Luke 15: What does the younger son want? What does the older son want?

N: How do you see older or younger brother tendencies in your life? Give an example from this past week.

A: What is the gospel truth that we each need to remember this week? How will we do so together?