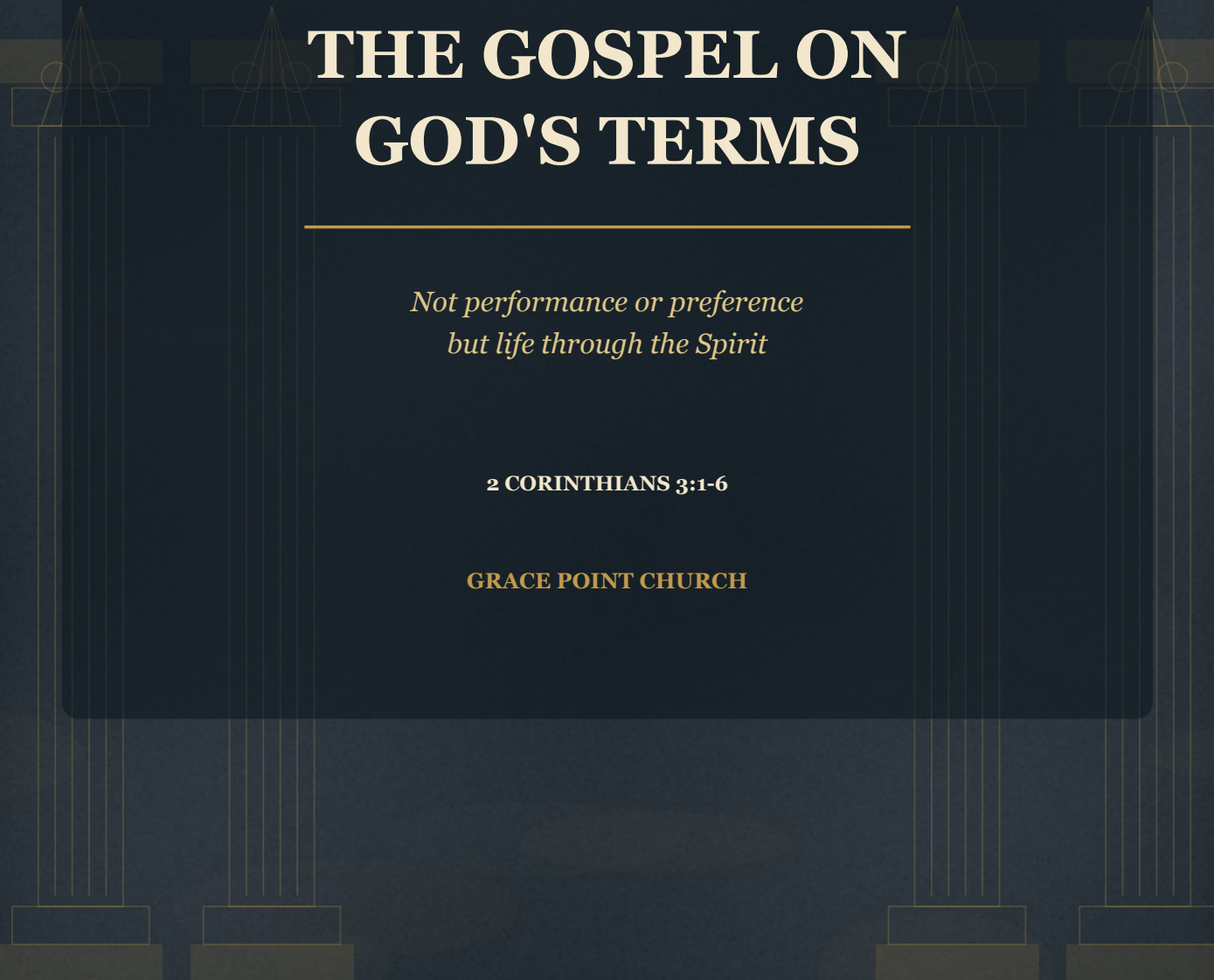




A COMPANION WORKBOOK FOR 2 CORINTHIANS



THE GOSPEL ON GOD'S TERMS

*Not performance or preference
but life through the Spirit*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-6

GRACE POINT CHURCH

THE BIG IDEA

We can receive the gospel on God's terms, or we cannot receive it at all.

Left to ourselves, we want a gospel that affirms our performance and preferences. But God loves us too much to leave salvation in our hands. The gospel we need changes us from the inside out, challenges our instincts, and confirms our identity in Christ.

KEY SCRIPTURE

"Not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:6

Where am I most tempted to demand the gospel on my terms? What do I want God to affirm instead of transform?

REFLECT AND RESPOND

CHANGED FROM THE INSIDE OUT

False apostles relied on external credentials. Paul pointed to something they could not manufacture: people whose hearts and lives had been changed by the Spirit. The Corinthians themselves were a letter from Christ, known and read by all.

OUTSIDE-IN

- External credentials
- Rules added to grace
- Behavior used to control

INSIDE-OUT

- The Spirit changes hearts
- New love reshapes life
- Visible fruit follows grace

True gospel change begins in the heart and becomes visible in the life.

Where am I trying to live outside-in? Where have I confused outward performance with the Spirit's transforming work?

WHERE THE SPIRIT IS CHANGING ME

PERFORMANCE CANNOT SAVE

Every time we add a requirement to the gospel and make it necessary for belonging, we undermine the gospel itself. Whether we are trying to impress God or convinced we never could, performance keeps the focus on us instead of the finished work of Jesus.

God's love for you rests on Jesus' performance, not yours.

PRIDE

I offer God my best because I believe I can impress Him.

GUILT

I hide from God because I believe I must impress Him.

Which lie is louder in me right now: 'I can earn God's love' or 'I have failed beyond God's love'? What does the cross say instead?

RESTING IN JESUS' PERFORMANCE

CHALLENGED IN OUR INSTINCTS

We want God to affirm whatever feels natural, from our theology to our sexuality and everything between. The gospel on God's terms confronts that instinct. His Word exposes where personal preference has replaced His authority.

"Not that we are sufficient in ourselves... but our sufficiency is from God."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:5

- + Self-confidence demands that God affirm my instincts.
- + God-confidence submits my preferences to His Word, wisdom, and will.
- + When Scripture challenges me, my response reveals rebellion or repentance.

Where am I trying to bend God toward my preferences? What instinct is His Word challenging me to submit?

A HUMBLE RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

IDENTITY CONFIRMED IN CHRIST

The gospel does not leave us with exposed insufficiency. God makes His people sufficient as ministers of a new covenant. What we could never perform and what our instincts could never produce, God gives through the Spirit because Jesus has finished the work.

God's terms have been fully kept by Jesus. The Spirit now gives life to all who trust Him.

THE NEW COVENANT PROMISE

WITHIN

God writes His law on human hearts.

BELONGING

He is our God, and we are His people.

KNOWLEDGE

His people truly know Him through Christ.

FORGIVENESS

He forgives iniquity and remembers sin no more.

Which part of the new covenant promise do I most need to receive today? How does it confirm who I am in Christ?

WHAT GOD SAYS IS TRUE OF ME

THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE

On our terms, we work our way toward God and ask Him to affirm what comes naturally. That path ends in death. On God's terms, Jesus fulfills every demand, pours out the new-covenant blood, and sends the Spirit to give eternal life.

THE LETTER KILLS

- Performance condemns
- Preference misleads
- Self-sufficiency fails

THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE

- Jesus is enough
- Grace is enough
- The cross is enough

In Christ, His love is enough - and because of Him, we are enough.

What demand, condemnation, or insecurity do I need to lay down? Where is the Spirit inviting me simply to receive His life?

RECEIVING THE SPIRIT'S LIFE

DISCUSSION & PRAYER

- 01 Why do we prefer a gospel that affirms performance and preference?
- 02 Where are you most tempted to add an external test to the gospel?
- 03 How is inside-out transformation different from behavior management?
- 04 Which instinct is hardest for you to submit to God's Word?
- 05 How does the new covenant confirm your identity in Christ?
- 06 What changes when sufficiency comes from God rather than yourself?

PRAY: Ask God to expose outside-in religion, confront self-protective preferences, deepen confidence in Christ, and give fresh life through His Spirit.

NOTES AND PRAYER

RESTING IN GOSPEL LIFE

The cross displays God's holiness, His love, the cost of grace, and the freedom Jesus purchased.

The sermon closes with two questions. Bring both to Jesus and name one response of faith.

1

PERFORMANCE & PREFERENCE

Where have they left me unfulfilled?

2

THE SPIRIT'S LIFE

Where do I need to rest in the life only He can give?

Jesus is enough. His grace is enough. His cross is enough. His love is enough.

MY NEXT RESPONSE OF FAITH