

## WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS? (PART FOUR)

### THE GOSPEL IS NOT ONLY FOR OUR SALVATION, BUT MORE SO FOR OUR GROWTH IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THROUGH SANCTIFICATION.

#### IV. THE GOSPEL IS ESSENTIAL FOR SANCTIFICATION

##### 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-2 (ESV)

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved...

Sanctification is the divine process upon which the soul of the believer becomes more and more conformed to the character of Christ, brought about by the power of truth, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

#### THE GOSPEL KEEPS OUR FOUNDATION STRONG

When we try to live the Christian life without the Gospel, we will live either with PRIDE, because we will be self-righteous, or with DESPAIR, because we will think that there is no hope for us to change.

The Gospel reminds us that no one is righteous before God and that nobody is beyond saving.

*“The true Christian is the only person who can say that he’s going to Heaven without being self-righteous. Why? In other religions how do you get to heaven? You get to heaven by being good, by earning it. In Christianity, you are not reconciled to God through your own virtue or merit, but you’re reconciled to God through the virtue and merit of His Son.”*  
*Paul Washer, Missionary*

#### THE GOSPEL GIVES US THE POWER TO OBEY

All throughout the Epistles, the pattern would be “This is what God has done for you in Christ, now then, go and obey Him out of gratitude in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

##### ROMANS 12:1 (NLT)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice — the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.



## THE GOSPEL FILLS OUR HEART WITH LOVE FOR GOD

### 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15 (ESV)

**14** For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; **15** and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Our greatest enemy is ourself – the sin that we love.  
The Christian life is all about a “change in affection”.

*“For when there is a question as to whether a man is good,  
one does not ask what he believes, or what he hopes, but what he loves.”*  
Augustine

The Greatest Command is

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.”

How do we do that? How do we love Him more and more?

By always being reminded of His grace and forgiveness in the Gospel.

*“Have you never beheld a condemned prisoner dissolved into tears upon the unexpected and unmerited receipt of a pardon, who all the time before was as hard as a flint? The hammer of the law may break the icy heart of a man with terrors and horror, and yet it may remain ice still, unchanged; but when the fire of love kindly thaws its ice, it is changed and dissolved into water — it is no longer ice, but of another nature. Therefore, meditate much on the love of God and Christ to your unworthy soul.”*  
George Swinnock, Puritan Theologian

### TITUS 2:11-12 (ESV)

**11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

### QUESTIONS FOR HUDDLE DISCUSSION:

1. Have you been trying to live your Christian life in your own strength?
2. How important is it for you to be reminded of the Gospel?  
How is its truth changing you?