

WEEK 2

THE GOSPEL IN OUR WORSHIP.

Our first response to the Gospel is not to share it with someone else; our first response is to respond to God in worship. We humbly bow in worship as we recount the lovingkindness of our God who pursues and saves.

Reflect on the words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:1-10. The narrative is clear: You were dead without hope. But God, rich in mercy, has raised us to life with him! He has raised us to an eternal, heavenly reality. And until that moment comes, he has a plan for your life.

In the next chapter, Paul goes on to describe how the reconciling work of the Gospel brings two enemies into one church, through one faith, in one Lord, Christ Jesus. His overflow is a prayer of worship and gratitude.

There is no end to the worship of Jesus Christ. We can never comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love for us. There is no god like our God. He alone is worthy of our worship. The knowledge of God overflows in worship of our loving Father, servant Son, and present Holy Spirit.

ASSIGNMENT

- Attend the second lesson.
- Work through the Group Discussion.
- Complete the homework.

Group Discussion

1. What is one of your favorite places on earth? How do you experience God's beauty there?
2. What was one big takeaway from the previous homework assignment?
3. Read Colossians 1:15-20. Whom is this passage describing? What words are used to describe him?
4. What does it mean for him to be "the beginning"?
5. What are some little "g" gods that compete for your affections? How is Christ better?
6. Share one way that God has saved or is saving you from yourself today. Close your discussion by worshipping God with your responses.

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HOMEWORK

1. Read Romans 7:1-6. How many times does the word “law” appear?

2. Paul uses marriage as an illustration. Break the illustration down in the space below.

If one is married and their spouse is alive, what is true?

If one is married and their spouse has died, what is true?

In relation to dying to the law, who has died to the law on our behalf?

If we are in Him, how are we now to serve?

3. What are the two types of fruit in verses 4 and 5?

At this point, one might think the law to be unhelpful or even evil. However, Paul’s tone toward the law is about to shift dramatically. The law was always intended to reveal the holiness of God, and our need for salvation. Let’s follow Paul’s argument into the next verses to see his viewpoint of the law and himself.

4. Read Romans 7:7-25. How many times does the word “death” appear?

5. Shall we say that the law is sin?

6. What does the law reveal to us?

7. What brings death to us if not the law?



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8. Jesus interprets the law in the truest of ways. How does Jesus summarize the demands of the law in Matthew 5:43-48?

9. What is Paul naturally bound to in verse 14? What does that result in in verse 15?

10. Read verses 15-17 again slowly. How do you relate to Paul's words in this passage? How does it make you feel that Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, articulates his struggle this way?



GOSPEL CLARITY

11. **Interpret:** Paul describes himself as a wretched man for the sin that lies within him. Write out one struggle you sometimes feel captive to, as if it is a natural reaction.



PRACTICE

12. **Apply:** Write out a prayer of thankfulness to God through Jesus Christ your Lord!

13. Read Romans 8:1-11. How many times do you see the word Spirit? How is that different from the previous chapter?

14. What are the two “laws” in 8:2? Circle the one given by the Spirit.

15. What is the outcome of setting your mind on the two laws above? What is the fruit of setting your mind on the Spirit given in verse 6?

16. According to verse 8, who cannot please God? According to verse 9, who can please God?



GOSPEL CLARITY

17. Interpret: Tony Merida quotes Robert Mounce, saying, “To insist on feeling guilty is but another way of insisting on helping God with our salvation. How deeply imbedded in human nature is the influence of works-righteousness!”¹ How does preaching the Gospel to ourselves form us in moments of shame and guilt?

¹ Tony Merida, *Exalting Jesus in Romans*, ed. David Platt, Daniel L. Akin, and Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2021), 122.



PRACTICE

18. Apply: Write out one point of guilt that you carry today. Give that to the Father and receive the free gift of life and peace through the Spirit in you.

19. Read Romans 8:12-30. How many times do you see the word Spirit?

20. By what (or who) do we put to death the deeds of the flesh?



CONNECT THE STORY

21. Interpret: Look up Deuteronomy 7:6-8 and 1 Peter 2:9-10. What are the parallels in these three passages?

22. Interpret: Tim Keller famously said, “The only person who dares wake up a king at 3 am for a glass of water is a child. We have that kind of access.” How does God make that possible according to Romans 8:15?



GOSPEL CLARITY

23. Interpret: If you are filled with God's Spirit, you are adopted as his child, his royal, treasured possession. What other passages of scripture affirm that we can go to the throne of God with confidence as his children?



PRACTICE

24. Apply: What spiritual discipline might be stronger if you believed this truth more fully? How would you want your children to approach you? What should they "get right" before they come to you?

25. How does the Spirit help us according to Romans 8:26?

26. According to verse 29, what has he predestined Christians to be?

27. What are the three past-tense verbs in verse 30?

28. Paul asks several rhetorical questions in verses 31-39. What is our guarantee that God is for us?



CONNECT THE STORY

29. Interpret: What has Christ accomplished that prevents our condemnation?
Where is Christ now, and how does that guarantee this reality?

30. Interpret: What can we not be separated from according to Paul?



PRACTICE

31. Apply: How does this passage lead you to worship God through the work of Jesus Christ?

32. Apply: How does this passage motivate you to be formed more deeply into the image of Christ?

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