

Steve Whitacre

# **SESSION 1 | How Good is Good Enough?**

## **Part 1**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **II. HOW GOOD IS GOOD ENOUGH?**

“Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.” Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace*, 18.

“Our perennial spiritual and psychological task is to look at things familiar until they become unfamiliar again.” G. K. Chesterton

### III. THE DANGER OF A TRUNCATED GOSPEL, AND ITS REMEDY

*Titus 2:11–14*

**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.**

**13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

**14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works**

*“...the best way to live now, in this present age, is to learn to do spiritually what is impossible physically, namely to look in opposite directions at the same time. We need both to look back and remember the epiphany of grace (whose purpose was to redeem us from all evil and to purify for God a people of his own), and also to look forward and anticipate the epiphany of glory (whose purpose will be to perfect at his second coming the salvation he began at his first). This deliberate orientation of ourselves, this looking back and looking forward, this determination to live in the light of Christ's two comings, to live today in the light of yesterday and tomorrow - this should be an essential part of our daily discipline. We need to say to ourselves regularly the great acclamation, 'Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. For then our present duties in the home will be inspired by the past and future epiphanies of Christ.'” John Stott, *Guard the Truth*, 196.*

## IV. CONCLUSION

“The logic is transparent enough. If Jesus gave himself to redeem us from sin and to live godly lives in this present evil age, we must devote ourselves to determining what godly lives look like, and to living such lives.” D. A. Carson, *For the Love of God*, vol. II.

## APPENDIX – THE NOT-TRUNCATED GOSPEL

Bold: what is true. Underlined: what to do.

“I appeal to you **therefore**, brothers, **by the mercies of God**, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

“**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.** On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.” (1 Corinthians 15:10)

“**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8–10)

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12–13)

**“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20–21)**

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