



The Gospel Is Preeminent

The first reason why we should teach on the gospel is because the gospel is preeminent.

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, “For I delivered to you ***as of first importance*** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”
- 1 Corinthians 2:2, “For I decided to know nothing among you ***except Jesus Christ and him crucified.***”
- Galatians 2:5, “The truth of the gospel might be preserved for you”

The Gospel and Sin

The second reason we should be studying the gospel is because we are sinners who need the hope this gospel provides.

- 1 Timothy 1:15, “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world *to save sinners*, of whom I am the foremost.”
- Hebrews 12:24 says that we have come to Jesus, “the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”

The Gospel and Sanctification

The gospel also gives us great hope for our sanctification.

- 1 Peter 2:24 says, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.”
- Titus 2:14 says that Jesus, “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
- Romans 8:29 says, “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined *to be conformed to the image of his Son*, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”
- Romans 6:2, “How can we who died to sin still live in it?”

The Gospel and Conflict

Ephesians 2:14-16, where Paul addressed the conflict between Jews and Gentiles:

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility



So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The Gospel and Suffering As Christians.

The gospel speaks to our suffering as well. Paul wrote in Colossians 1:24-26,

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and *in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body*, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints

In 2 Corinthians 1:5-6 we read,

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.

- Romans 8:16-17, "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, *provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*"

The Gospel and Glory

1 Peter 1:8-9,

"Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and *filled with glory*, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18,

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all*



comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

Galatians 4:4-7 says,

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. What areas of your life have you never considered bringing the gospel into? What else might be preeminent in your life beside the gospel?
2. What are ways people try to deal with their sin outside of the gospel? Which methods are temptations for you?
3. You usually think to share the gospel for people’s salvation, but have you ever considered sharing the gospel with a believer for their sanctification? How would you share the gospel to encourage someone in their sanctification and sin struggles?
4. What are you tempted to find unity in within the church, other than the gospel? How does the world tempt us to deal with conflict? How can the gospel motivate you to lovingly address conflict?
5. Have you ever been persecuted for your faith? When you think of suffering for Christ’s sake, what thoughts and feelings come to mind? How does the gospel inform our thoughts about suffering?
6. What are lesser/earthly glories that you are tempted to set your hope on? How might setting your hope on the glory of Christ to come change your daily perspective?
7. Which aspect of the gospel (preeminence, sin, sanctification, conflict, suffering as Christians, glory) will you seek to grow in this week?



1. Why teach on the gospel?
 - a. The gospel is preeminent (1 Cor 15)
 - b. The gospel and sin (Romans 8:1)
 - c. The gospel and sanctification (1 Peter 2:24)
 - d. The gospel and suffering (2 Timothy 1:8-9)
 - e. The gospel and conflict (Ephesians 2:13-16)
 - f. The gospel and glory (Hebrews 2:10, 1 Corinthians 2:7)
2. The divine dilemma
 - a. What is the divine dilemma?
 - i. God must punish sin, but God also forgives
 - b. Why can't God just forgive?
 - i. God is not like us
 - ii. There are no contradictions in God
 - iii. Thirdly, God is the Judge!
 - c. The dilemma in the scriptures
 - i. Exodus 23:7, Romans 4:5, Proverbs 17:15, Exodus 34:5-7
 - d. The answer: The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 3:26)
 - i. God is just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus!
3. The Son's Motive for Coming to Save
 - a. God doesn't need anything (Acts 17:24-25)
 - b. For the Glory of God
 - i. Romans 11:36, Psalm 79:9; 106:6-8, Isaiah 63:12, Ezekiel 36:22-23
 - ii. Ephesians 1:3-14
 - c. For the Love of His People
 - i. 1 John 4:9-10, John 3:16-17, Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Romans 5:6-10
 - d. For His Father's Glory (Hebrews 10:7, Psalm 40:7-8)
 - i. Jesus' obedience to the father's will (John 4:34)



- ii. Jesus' passion for the Father's glory
 - iii. Jesus' desire to manifest His love for the Father
 - e. For His Great Love Toward Us
 - i. John 15:9, Galatians 2:20
 - f. For the Joy Set Before Him
 - i. The Joy of returning to His Father's presence (Psalm 16:9-11)
 - ii. The Joy of sharing in His Father's glory (John 17:4-5, 24)
 - iii. The Joy of gaining for Himself a Redeemed People (Psalm 2:8, Isaiah 53:11, Luke 15:10, Revelation 5:9-10; 7:9-10; 22:3-5).
- 4. The Son of God in Glory, and the Son Became a Man
 - a. The Son's Deity
 - i. 1 John 1:1-4
 - ii. Philippians 2:6
 - b. The Son's Glory
 - i. Colossians 1:15-17
 - ii. Isaiah 6:1-10

Take for instance what Paul wrote in Colossians 1:24-29,

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of ***the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.*** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

The mystery revealed, the hope of Glory, and Christ in you are all different ways of Paul referring to the gospel. Paul says he toils and strives to proclaim Christ with all the energy that God works in him.