

## Grow in the Gospel

Westview Church | Pastor Haakon Hansen | July 19, 2020

Jesus saves sinners. This is the wonderfully simple yet infinitely deep truth that we confess together by our assembling here today. This is the gospel. And this is good news. And there is nothing in your life that is not directly impacted by this gospel. And further, there is nothing in your Christian life that is not directly impacted by the gospel, because the gospel is the Christian life. We never move on from the gospel as Christians—only further in.

The gospel is not just a door you walk through to get into the Christian life. No, it is the house; it is everything. It is the door you walk through; it is the floor beneath you, the roof above you, and the walls that surround you. That is why at Westview Church we have “gospel growth” as one of our essentials. Not *personal* growth, not *theology* growth—*gospel* growth. We want to grow in the gospel. And that is the exhortation this morning: grow in the gospel.

How do we do that? Lord willing, we will spend years fleshing this out together as a church, but there are two truths we must embrace if we are to grow in the gospel.

**First, we must believe that we *really are sinners*.** From Romans 3, Paul quoting Psalm 14 in explaining the gospel to the Roman Church: “None is righteous, no not one; no one understands; no one seeks God.” We are not mostly good and just stumble here and there. The Scriptures are clear that apart from God we are rebellious, self-seeking, sickly, lost sinners. Gospel growth requires us not to let our flesh reject this reality but look it square in the face, understand it, learn about it, and hate it. Hate our sinfulness.

**Second, we must believe that *Jesus really does save*.** From Revelation 5, the elders and heavenly creatures together sing to Jesus, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” Jesus is the Son of God, and his sacrifice is sufficient for the forgiveness of your sins. It doesn’t matter what your background is, what cultural tribes you are from, or what ethnicity you are. Jesus’s blood is sufficient, and it was spilled for you.

We do not have a time of confession in our liturgy each week because we think that Jesus’s sacrifice was not enough for our forgiveness. No, we have confession in our liturgy to remind us that it *is*; he is enough for our forgiveness. He is our only hope, and the only True Savior.

This reminds us of our need to confess our sins to the only one who can save us from them. Pray with me. Father, you are holy, and those who are yours must be holy as well. But we, on our own, are not holy. We are easily deceived like Adam and Eve. We are often discontent, and, at times, follow our lusts down deadly paths like King David. We fear man more than God and deny Jesus like Peter. We are sinners, and our sin must be dealt with. Father, having confessed our sin collectively, we take a moment of silence to confess our individual sins to you now.

We do this in the sure name of Jesus, amen.