

2025 Fall Bible School Class #6

- Why is the Gospel given in so many of the Epistles to the churches?
- How do I know that I am hearing the voice of God?
- What is the essence of the sin nature?

Why is the Gospel given in so many of the Epistles to the churches?

Ephesians 1-3, Colossians 1-3, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Romans 1-11, Galatians 3:10-14.

Helpful resource – *A Gospel Primer for Christians: Learning to See the Glories of God's Love*
Milton Vincent, Focus Publishing.

Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

How would you characterize the Roman church? _____

Romans 1:15, 16a So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,

Who is Paul eager to preach the gospel to? _____

Why? “ For it is the _____ of God for salvation to everyone who _____.”

The word Salvation: for unbelievers = becoming saved, for believers = progressive sanctification.

Philippians 2:12, 13 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 (sanctification) with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure

Power - translated from *dynamis* = *Literally, it describes the ability to perform an activity.*

Question: if we have the Spirit of God from the point of salvation (Romans 8:9b Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.) and He, the Spirit, contains God’s power (Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,) how does the power of the gospel affect us to work out our own sanctification?

True or false statements:

- A. The power God gives us by the Spirit is inadequate and we need to find something more. T F
Consider Colossians 1:11a being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might,
- B. The power God gave us is incomplete and we need to find more of it. T F
Consider Colossians 1:11b for all endurance and patience with joy;
- C. The power of God through the indwelling Spirit is only for miracles not for working out our sanctification. T F

- D. The power of God is adequate, (2 Peter 1:3a. His **divine power** has granted to us **all** things that pertain to **life and godliness**) Since we have free will, we can choose whether to apply His power or not. T F
- E. The gospel truths interacts with the power of God, (2 Peter 1:9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins) to help us work out our sanctification. T F
- F. We have all the knowledge we need to work out our sanctification we just need to do it! T F
Consider:
Colossians 1:9, 10a And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him
1 Peter 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,
2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

As Paul writes to the churches what does he say the truths of the gospel will do?

Colossians 1:5b Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world *it is bearing fruit and increasing* as it also does among you,

Fruitfulness results from following God's word and the Spirit. We have the ability but sometimes lack motivation and choose poorly.

What is the best motivation for us to obey? The _____ of _____.

2 Corinthians 5:14, 15 For the love of Christ controls (compels NIV) us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and 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.

What action by God best describes His love for us? _____ ref. John 15:13

This is the essence of the _____.

As we consider this fact of the gospel what attitude should it create in us? _____

Colossians 1:11b, 12 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father,

Why is this attitude so important? Consider 1Thessalonians 5: 18, 19 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit.

It is God's _____, which is always good for us.

Could an ungrateful attitude quench the Spirit? _____ How? _____

In Philippians 2:5-8 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death.

Obedience requires a _____ attitude.

Philippians 2:12-15 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, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent,

If we are not thankful and grumbling or disputing (questioning the sovereignty of God AMP) are we more or less likely to obey? _____.

Does being humble and grateful lead to greater obedience? _____ How?

If the gospel reminds us of God's love which compels us to obey Him and creates a humble, thankful attitude that promotes obedience what is the most important thing we can do to demonstrate our love for God?

Matthew 22: 37-40 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1 John 1:10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

Why we need to hear the gospel as maturing Christians:

It reminds us of His love for us which compels us to obey

It creates a humble, thankful attitude about obedience

It motivates us to be obedient to love God and others

Philippians 1:9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

How do I know that I am hearing the voice of God?

Some thoughts to consider:

God loves us and wants the best (His definition) for us.

God does not want us to be deceived, by ourselves or others.

God wants to reveal Himself to us, accurately.

What are the possible ways God would speak to me? Score the reliability of each 1 to 5.

The audible voice of God. ____

By the Spirit of God. ____

Through another person. ____ to ____

Through my inner voice, heart. ____

Through a memory that I recalled. Recent ____ sometime back ____

By another spirit. ____

Through His written Word. ____

Through experiences. ____

How do you discern who is speaking?

When would God speak to you according to scripture?

To help you understand and remember scripture.

John 14:26 **But** the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Revelation 3:22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (as written in this book).

Hebrews 4:11,12 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of *disobedience*. ¹²For the word of God is *living* and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 1:1, 2 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Question: did the canonization of scripture change God's way of communicating to us?

How? _____

To confirm you are saved

John 10:25-28 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not among my

sheep. ²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

To encourage you to obey Him

John 14:223-26 Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

1 John 5:1-3 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Hebrews 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

When would God not speak to you?

To get you to follow your heart.

Jeremiah 17:5, 9 Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. 9 The heart is *deceitful* above all things, and desperately sick; who can *understand* it? Cf. 1-8.

To give you special revelation that is not contained in the Bible.

Revelation 22:18, 19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

To raise an experience or dream above scripture.

2 Peter 1:16-21 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark

place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

To give you direction in your life that is not according to will of God. (How do we know the will of God?)

God's will is that you be saved 2 Peter 3:9

God's will is that you be Spirit filled Ephesians 5:17

God's will is that you be suffering (for the sake of God) 1 Peter 4:19

God's will is that you are being sanctified 1 Thessalonians 4:3

God's will is that you be thankful 1 Thessalonians 5:18

If you are in God's will in all of these areas, what can you do?

What is the essence of the sin nature?

Words used for or descriptions of the sin nature in the Bible:

Flesh - Refers to the human tendency toward sin and moral weakness.

Romans 7:18 – "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh..."

Old Self / Old Man - The unredeemed human nature or flesh before salvation

Ephesians 4:22 – "Put off your old self, which is being corrupted..."

Sinful Nature - Directly describes the inner inclination to sin.

Romans 7:18 – "I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

Heart (when described as deceitful) - Symbolizes the inner moral center, often corrupted

Jeremiah 17:9 – "The heart is deceitful above all things..."

Desires of the Flesh - Lusts or cravings that oppose God's will

Galatians 5:16–17 – "The flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit..."

Law of Sin - A principle or force within that drives sinful behavior

Romans 7:21–23 – "I see another law at work in me..."

Evil Desire - Temptation arising from within

James 1:14 – "Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire..."

Why should we be concerned with this question?

The frequency of the term in scripture.

At least _____ times.

The relevance of the issues related to our sin nature.

We all, including Paul, have a _____ with the sin nature.

The impact on our lives, _____, if we gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:15-17 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Where did the sin nature come from?

Submitting to temptation which is _____.

Genesis 3:1-7a Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.

What were the temptations? _____

What are the basic attributes of the sin nature?

Genesis 3:7b And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be

with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

How does this help us?
