

THE GOSPEL FOR EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN LIVING

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

Milton Vincent in *“A Gospel Primer for Christians: Learning to See the Glories of God's Love”*: **“Preach the gospel to yourself every day.”**

What is the Gospel? The Heart of the Gospel

- ❖ **I 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...
- He didn't die for our health
- He didn't die for our wealth
- He didn't die to give us good self-esteem
- He died for our sins, which separated us from God and made us eternally condemned, and saved us by His death and resurrection.

Note: We have to reflect on and preach this gospel every day to our souls.

Jerry Bridges: We tend to give an unbeliever just enough of the gospel to get him or her to pray a prayer to receive Christ. Then we immediately put the gospel on the shelf, so to speak, and go on to the duties of discipleship. As a result, Christians are not instructed in the gospel. And because they do not fully understand the riches and glory of the gospel, they cannot preach it to themselves, nor live by it in their daily lives.

To say "The Gospel of Christ is for unbelievers and not for believers" is like saying "Breathing air is for unbelievers and not for believers."

No person can say, "I feel bored breathing the air every day." He lives by breathing the air. No Christian can say, "I feel bored reflecting on the GOSPEL every day." He lives by breathing the GOSPEL every day.

So great is the gospel that even in heaven the gospel is sung:

- ❖ **Revelation 5:9-10**, "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, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Scripture 1:

❖ **I Corinthians 15:1-2**, Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which **(Gospel)** you received, **in which (Gospel) you stand, and by which (Gospel) you are being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

“in which YOU STAND, and by which (Gospel) YOU ARE BEING SAVED”—present tense, ongoing activity

- The Gospel saved (past)—**Ephesians 2:5**, “Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace **you have been saved (PAST TENSE).**”
- The Gospel saves (present)—**I Corinthians 15:1-2**, Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, **in which you stand (PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE), and by which you are being saved (PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE).**
- The Gospel will save (future)—**Romans 5:9-10**, “Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, **much more shall we be saved (FUTURE TENSE)** by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, **shall we be saved (FUTURE TENSE)** by his life.”

Tim Keller explains, “The gospel isn't simply the ABCs of Christianity, but the A-through-Z.”

Note: The Old Testament testifies **preparation to the Cross**. The Gospels testify **the finished work of Christ on the cross**. The rest of the New Testament testifies **the impact of the gospel for eternity**.

- You cannot keep aside the gospel and grow in Christian life. Your Christian growth is dependent on the gospel.

Therefore, hold on to the Gospel. Stand on the Gospel. Preach the Gospel to yourself every day. Don't desert the Gospel.

Paul's grief at people deserting the gospel:

- ❖ **Galatians 1:6**, I am astonished that you are **so quickly deserting him** who called you in the grace of Christ and are **turning to a different gospel**.

Scripture 2:

- ❖ **I Thessalonians 2:13**, “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God (**Gospel**), which (**Gospel**) you heard from us, you accepted it (**Gospel**) not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God (**Gospel**), **which (Gospel) is at work in you believers.**”

J. Hampton Keathley, III: “at work” is *energeo* from which we get our word energy or energize and means “to work efficiently and productively.” It is in the present continuous tense of what is consistently true as a principle of life.

THE GOSPEL IS NOT A MERE BELIEF SYSTEM. IT IS OUR LIFE BY WHICH WE LIVE OUR EVERY DAY CHRISTIAN LIFE.

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IS NOT THE STARTER SWITCH BUT THE ENGINE BY WHICH THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN LIFE FUNCTIONS.

Jonathan K. Dodson: A disciple of Jesus is someone who learns the gospel, relates in the gospel, and communicates the gospel...The gospel is for undergraduates and graduates because nobody ever graduates from the gospel...Every follower of Jesus needs to know, and be reminded, that **the gospel that makes disciples is the very same gospel that matures disciples**. We are born in grace and we breathe by grace, all bought by the blood of Jesus.

CHRISTIAN MATURITY IS NOT GOING BEYOND THE GOSPEL. IT IS GROWING DEEPER WITHIN THE GOSPEL.

Scripture 3:

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

John Piper: We don't usually think about preaching the gospel to believers. We preach the gospel to unbelievers...The gospel of grace (Acts 20:24) is what we

preach to unbelievers, and the gospel of grace is what we preach to believers. That is what Paul says in Romans 1:15, “I am eager to preach the gospel to you [believers!] also who are in Rome.” Not to get them saved, but to keep them saved through sanctification...**Our faith begins with the gospel of grace, and our Christian lives are sustained by this same good news of grace over and over again...**This gospel of grace is to be preached to believer and unbeliever alike because faith in free grace saves and faith in free grace sanctifies.

- More than half of the book of Romans is related to the Gospel of Christ. The book of Romans is a commentary of the Gospel of Christ.

Conclusion: The Gospel is not only for unbelievers; it is for believers too. You cannot live your Christian life every day without the gospel. If you are failing to live your Christian life effectively, it is because you are failing to preach the gospel to yourself consistently.

NEXT SERMON, PART 2, HOW DO WE PRACTICALLY APPLY THE GOSPEL TO EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN LIFE?