



A Vision for Gospel Ministry at Covenant

Rally Day, 1 Sept 2019

The Whole Counsel of God



= “The whole counsel of God”

Acts 20:24, 27 “But I [Paul] do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God...*for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.*”

The Full Gamut of What God Has Revealed

- ▶ Every book of the Bible
- ▶ Every dimension of the theology that emerges from the whole Bible
- ▶ Every sphere of life as God's word speaks to it



Every Book of the Bible

Gen	Exod	Lev	Num	Deut	Josh	Judg	Ruth
1–2 Sam	1–2 Kgs	1–2 Chr	Ez–Neh	Esth	Job	Ps	Prov
Eccl	Song	Isa	Jer	Lam	Ezek	Dan	Hos
Joel	Amos	Obad	Jon	Mic	Nah	Hab	Zeph
Hag	Zech	Mal	Matt	Mark	Luke	John	Acts
Rom	1 Cor	2 Cor	Gal	Eph	Phil	Col	1 Th
2 Th	1 Tim	2 Tim	Titus	Phlm	Heb	Jam	1 Pet
2 Pet	1 John	2 John	3 John	Jude	Rev		

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	Adult SS
	Sermon series
	Jackson/Peppo (2008–2015)

Every Book of the Bible

- ▶ Different Genres
 - ▶ Narrative (OT and NT)
 - ▶ Law
 - ▶ Prophecy (including Apocalypse)
 - ▶ Poetry / wisdom
 - ▶ Epistle



Every Dimension of Theology

Bible – What it is	Union with Christ
Bible – How to read it	Justification, adoption
Biblical theology	Sanctification
God	Faith, repentance, and assurance
Christ	Holiness, good works, and perseverance
The Holy Spirit	Church
The decree	Worship: sacraments
Creation	Worship: singing
Humanity	Worship: preaching
Covenant and God's law	Eschatology

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Every Sphere of Life

Politics	Clothes, modesty
Discipleship	Prayer, fasting
Work, money	Contentment, anxiety, joy
Marriage, sexuality, gender	Anger, conflict resolution
Family, parenting	Decision making
Arts, recreation, sports, leisure	Stress, busyness, priorities, time
Science, technology, health, bioethics	Hospitality, friendship, loneliness
Depression, OCD, etc.	Suffering, shame
Food	Humility, pride
The environment	Youth, old age

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	Adult SS
	Other teaching (men's breakfast, book study, etc.)

Basic Principles for Addressing All of Life

- ▶ The Bible speaks to everything
 - ▶ WCF 1.6 The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.
- ▶ The Bible does not have commands for everything
 - ▶ WCF 20.2 God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, contrary to His Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship.

Focus Areas (Perennial Concerns)

- ▶ Evangelism
- ▶ Family Worship
- ▶ Church History
- ▶ Good Communication about the Life of the Church



In Sum

- ▶ Eph 3:7-10 “Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

The Goal

- ▶ Col 1:9-10 “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that
 - ▶ (1) you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
 - ▶ (2) so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”
- ▶ Col 1:27-28 “To them [the saints] 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.”

A Promise

- ▶ 2 Pet 1:3 “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence”

What If You Missed Something?

- ▶ Sermon Audio
 - ▶ Handouts also available on SA
- ▶ New Shorter Catechism Tutorials
- ▶ Church Library! (you knew I'd work this in somehow)

Help Me Minister to You

- ▶ Anonymous survey:
 - ▶ What are the places where you most struggle in your life right now?
 - ▶ What are your greatest difficulties and trials? (Does not need to be “spiritual”)?
 - ▶ What are your doubts or deepest questions?