

November: Stewarding the Gospel

Week One:

When we are saved we are set free from slavery to sin and death and are called to be slaves to righteousness, to walk in holiness with the freedom that we have in Christ. This week spend time rejoicing in the saving work that Christ has done in your life and pray that God would help you steward the gospel by walking in holiness, in joyful obedience as a testimony of Christ's work within you. Pray through Romans 6:15-23 and spend time in confession of areas where you struggle to consider yourself dead to sin. Pray that God would help you walk in righteousness.

"What then? Are we to sin because we are not under the law, but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But, thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed and having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Week Two:

Another way that we are called to steward the gospel is by being ambassadors of Christ, representing Him well in all that we do. Most of us likely do not understand the full significance of being an ambassador, but it is a role of honor in representing the authority that you serve in a foreign land. The significance of this role goes along well with what we learned about what it looks like to be an elect exile in our study of *1 Peter*.

Pray that we would be humbled that God has called us to represent Him in this land and that He would help us faithfully represent Him. Pray that as God continues conforming you to the image of Christ, you would respond in humility and faithfulness, especially when you face suffering and persecution.

Scripture to pray through: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and 1 Peter 1:13-21

Week Three:

God has done a marvelous work in saving us and showing us mercy each day. We should be awed by the steadfast love He has shown to us in Christ and be boldly proclaiming God's work with everyone we can. May we be like Peter and John, who when they were commanded to no longer speak the name of Jesus, answered *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."* (Acts 4:19) Their lives had been transformed by Christ and they were compelled to share the hope that they had with everyone they could.

Pray that we would have a renewed awe of the work that Christ has done in our lives and that we also would be compelled to share the hope of the gospel with those around us. Read and pray through Acts 4:1-22. Pray that you would be growing in boldness and compassion for the unbelievers in your life. Pray that you would grow in always being prepared to share the hope that is within you, with gentleness and respect.

"But in your heart's honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense for the hope that is within you, yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame." –1 Peter 3:15-16

Week Four:

As we navigate life, still facing the consequences of living in a sin-cursed world, we can steward the gospel by standing firm in our eternal hope and living in light of eternity. God warns that we will face heartache, trials and even death in this life, but in Christ we can suffer as those with hope, knowing that God uses our trials to refine our faith and that we can rejoice when we share in the sufferings of Jesus. Pray that we would not lose heart when we face trials, but that we would look to Christ for strength and seek to glorify God in the way that we respond to suffering.

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial, when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name." –1 Peter 4:12-16