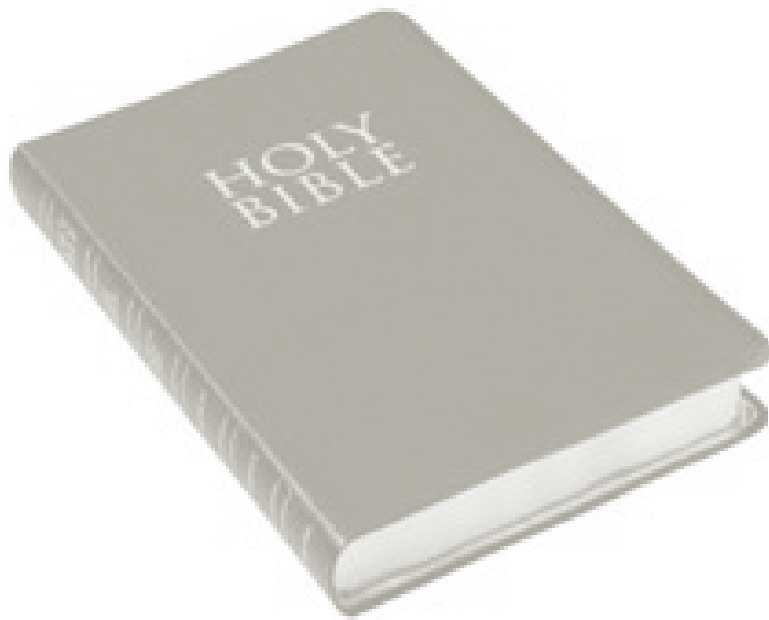


Preaching the Gospel



To Yourself

Description

“God did not just give us His gospel just so we could embrace it and be converted. Actually, He offers it to us every day as a gift that keeps on giving to us everything we need for life and godliness.” The goal of this class is to learn how to extract applicable, life-changing truths from the Gospel message. We will learn to preach the Gospel to ourselves, in order to savor the glories of God’s love and experience the life-transforming power of the gospel in every area of our life!

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Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

Week One – What is the Gospel?

Simplified Version:

The Gospel is God's plan to glorify Himself through the redemption of sinful humankind in Jesus Christ. Man has a sin problem, God is holy, and without an answer to sin we're destined to eternity apart from God (aka Hell). God graciously provides that answer to our sin in His own Son, Jesus Christ. Our part in this equation is to admit/confess our sin problem, acknowledge our need for a Savior, and then to accept Jesus Christ as that Savior. That is the Gospel.

However, I also believe that agreeing with this Gospel means that we agree with what God says about ALL of life, and we will humble ourselves and seek to live in obedience to Him, just like Christ did, through knowing and obeying His revealed will in Scripture.

Extended Edition:

The Gospel is the story of the Bible. It is traced throughout the Old and New Testament and it is the story of God's **redemptive** plan for His creation. You see, God's creation, specifically mankind, rebelled against Him by choosing **sin** over God. (Gen. 3; Rom. 1:18-23, 3:23) We are inclined to do what is right in our own eyes rather than to live for our Creator in the way He has in store for us. Because of this sinful bent in our lives, we are by nature enemies of God, because He is **holy** and cannot be in the presence of sin. (Isa. 6:1-7, 64:6) This means we're objects of His wrath, because we are living in sin and God hates sin. However, the Gospel also tells us of God's **grace** and **mercy**. God has abundant loving-kindness and faithfulness to us, as His creation, and has provided a Savior in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was both God and Man, and He came to live a perfectly obedient, sinless life in order to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin. (Rom. 5:6-8, 8:3) You see, the Gospel tells us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was rejected by men, whom He came to save (this includes each one of us), but He still willingly went to the Cross, where He died for **our** sins. (John 15:12-14; Acts 3:18-19) His death was not simply a good man dying for crimes He didn't commit, but the very Son of God dying for the creation that He made (John 1:1) in order to serve as a **reconciler** between God and man. (John 3:16-17; Rom. 8:32) Because Jesus' death was accepted by God, as evidenced by His resurrection, it is possible for us, as sinful men/women, to be made clean again in God's eyes, IF we confess with our mouths that Jesus is **Lord** and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead (Rom. 10:9-10). The Gospel tells us that, as sinners, we could never have done anything to be righteous again in God's sight, BUT the sacrifice of a perfect lamb, without blemish, would ultimately be acceptable as the ransom/redemptive price for man's sins. (Rom. 4:5; Titus 3:5-7) As a result of that sacrifice and man's subsequent confession/acceptance of the grace freely given through Jesus Christ, there is a restoration between God and that man again. (Acts 5:31; Rom. 5:1-2; John 1:12) Our relationship is made new and there are some significant truths for us to take hold of.

Comment [N1]: Redemption means deliverance from some evil by payment of a price. It is more than simple deliverance. (NBD)

Comment [N2]: Sin is defined as:
1. Missing the mark or taking the wrong path
2. Deliberate wrongdoing or rebellion (NBD)

Comment [N3]: Unique, pure, set apart, God's distinguishing characteristic that sets him apart from all of creation; God's perfection

Comment [N4]: God's unmerited favor

Comment [N5]: Compassion on one in need.

Comment [N6]: Reconcile – to restore a relationship

Comment [N7]: Lord implies that He has the right and authority to demand obedience from us.

Gospel Responses:

- We're no longer enslaved to sin, we have the choice to offer our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness (Rom. 6 & 12)
- We're part of a living body of believers, who are called the church, who are God's people. As part of this body, we're called to serve and use the gifts/abilities that God has given us to build unity in the body (Eph. 4 & 1 Cor. 12) and to be a visible witness of the invisible God.
- God has forgiven us and no longer has wrath stored up for us. He has poured out His wrath on His Son. He still hates sin, but He sees us through the blood of Christ, washed clean of sin. (Rom. 5, 8:3; 1 Peter 3:18; Acts 13)
- When we choose sin after being made new in Christ, we have an answer for how to handle it. Confession and repentance (Eph. 4:20-24; James 4:8; 1 John 1:9)
- We will answer to Jesus one day at the judgment seat of Christ for how we have lived our life, being guaranteed eternal life with Him in heaven, but having more or less of a reward based on our stewardship of the life He gave us while on Earth. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 4:1-11, but especially 10-11)

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself - Week 2

The Gospel's effect on my response to circumstances

Weekly Recap

Of Class

1. The Gospel is not just for conversion; it is also for daily life and godliness
2. The goal of this class is to learn how to extract applicable, life-changing truths from the Gospel message and then to apply them to become more like Christ!

The Gospel

1. God, Man, Christ, Response

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

1. Reflecting on the truth of the Gospel message to stimulate a response of right thinking and right action

Why?

1. Galatians 2:20 – "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
2. Romans 12:1 – "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship."

Week 2

Premise – The more absorbed I am in the gospel, the more grateful I become in the midst of my circumstances, whatever they may be."

Object Lesson

1. My cup is full of wrath
2. Jesus takes all of the wrath meant for me
3. My cup is now empty of wrath!
 - a. My response – THANK YOU LORD FOR THE HOPE OF HEAVEN!
4. If God were to give me even the slightest bit of blessings = GOD IS SO GRACIOUS!
5. The truth is that the Gospel tells me that I am filled up with every spiritual blessing in Christ! (Eph. 1:3)
 - a. My response ought to be even greater rejoicing than before!
 - i. Like the Psalmist in Psalm 23
 - b. I am extremely blessed!

Milton Vincent - "As for my specific earthly circumstances of plenty or want, I can see them always as infinite improvements on the hell I deserve."

Based on our discussion, what are some practical ways the Gospel should change the way I view my circumstances?

Trials:

- Does the Gospel have anything say on how we respond to trials?
 - o We can have hope in trials (Rom. 5:1-5)
 - o Trials are for my good and God's glory
 - Rom. 8:28-29; James 1:2-4; 2 Cor. 12:9-10

All circumstances:

- The way the Gospel affects how we view our circumstances is...
 - o I am grateful for the wrath I'm not receiving
 - o I'm grateful for the blessings that are given to me!
 - "Life's blessings, however small, always appear exceedingly precious when viewed against the backdrop of the wrath I deserve"
- We now desire to give thanks in every circumstance (1 Thess. 5:18)
- We fight for contentment like Paul in Phil. 4

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself - Week 3

The Gospel's effect on sin

Weekly Recap

Of Class

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Why?

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Week 3

Premise #1 – I am daily beset by a sinful flesh that always craves what is contrary to the Spirit.

How do we prove this?

1. Galatians 5:16-25
2. This is war!
 - a. 1 Peter 2:11
 - b. Romans 7:21-24
 - c. You don’t put on the armor of God in peacetime! (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Why does this struggle exist?

1. We inherently desire “fullness” or “satisfaction”
 - a. We were made to be satisfied by God!
2. We see this in several ways
 - a. Personal testimonies
 - b. Biblical Accounts
 - i. Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:6)
 - ii. Woman at the Well (John 4:4-15)
 - iii. The crowd that Jesus feeds (John 6:1-14, 25-34)

Why do we often turn to sin to fill (satisfy) us?

1. We believe the lie!
 - a. That sin will somehow satisfy us
 - b. We are deceived
2. This points us to an underlying root issue
 - a. The problem of being EMPTY
 - b. If we address our emptiness, then sin will not be nearly as enticing and we will be able to fight back more effectively

How, then, could preaching the Gospel to yourself help in this situation?

1. It's the key to putting to death our fleshly desires!
2. We fill ourselves up on the Gospel and the God it points to
 - a. Then we won't be empty and looking for sin to fill us
3. Scripture tells us this is possible
 - a. Ephesians 1:23 – He is the God who “fills all in all” or “everything in every way”
 - b. Ephesians 3:14-19 – We are told that we may be “filled to the measure of all of the fullness of God!”
4. The Gospel points us to the God behind the message
 - a. This is the God who desires us to be satisfied with nothing less than fullness in Him
 - i. He is the God in Ephesians 5:18 who says to “be filled with the Spirit” (not the flesh!)

So what is the effect on our desire for sin when we're full of these Gospel truths?

1. John 4:13, 6:35 – Jesus says we will never be hungry or thirsty again!
 - a. We will be SATISFIED in Him!
2. Milton Vincent says:

As I perpetually feast on Christ and all of His blessings found in the Gospel, I find that my hunger for sin diminishes and the lies of lust simply lose their appeal. Hence, to the degree that I am full, I am free. Eyes do not rove, nor do fleshly lusts rule, when the heart is fat with the love of Jesus.

Premise #2 – As long as I'm stricken with the guilt of my sins I will be captive to them.

Unhandled sin eats away at us! Often we keep on sinning because we feel condemned by guilt!

1. Psalm 32:1-5 – David's accounting of his unhandled sin and then, eventually, his right response
2. Romans 6:1-14 – Paul tells us to remember the Gospel! Sin is not our master, we are under grace!
 - a. The Gospel kills the power of sin!
 - b. I am reminded of my position in Christ, the forgiveness available to me, and I am freed from the condemnation of the guilt of my sin (as I handle it with the Lord in confession and repentance – see 1 John 1:9)

Closing Thoughts - I preach the Gospel to myself daily...

1. To be filled with its truths and to find my satisfaction in Christ and our heavenly Father instead of sin!
2. To nullify the power of sin's guilt over me, as I remember that I am forgiven as I confess and repent of my sin!

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself - Week 4

Exposed by the Cross: A right view of Self

Week 4

Testimonies of those who have gone before me!

1. John Newton - Amazing Grace
2. Isaiah – In the presence of God (Isa. 6:1-6)
3. Apostle Paul – Reflecting on Gospel truths (Rom. 5-8)

What do they have in common?

1. Their response of awe before a holy God

I, too, ought to be distraught over sin in my life.

1. It is because of this sin that Christ had to die
2. The meditation can't stop there!
 - a. That is only ½ of the Gospel
3. Remember, God chose to send Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17) – this is AMAZING GRACE!

This complete Gospel gives me an opportunity:

1. An opportunity to reflect on the magnitude of God's saving grace & forgiveness
 - a. Which motivates me to respond with heartfelt worship & delight in Him!

Premise #1a – The deeper I go into the Gospel, the more I comprehend & confess aloud the depth of my sinfulness;

Premise #1b – The deeper I go into the Gospel, the more I respond in praise & thanksgiving as I reflect on God's great forgiveness, grace & mercy

Milton Vincent calls this process “being exposed by the Cross.”

The Gospel not only exposes me to myself, it also exposes me to everyone around me!

1. If I am in Christ – I am a self-proclaimed sinner
2. The sinless Son of God had to die for me!
3. The worst possible “gossip” about me is blaring from the mount of the Cross

How should this affect the way that I live?

1. No more self-righteousness – My righteousness is only found in Christ (Rom. 5)
2. No room for pride – I will boast in Christ, not myself (2 Cor. 12:9-10; James 4:6)
3. Nothing left to hide – I am able to be vulnerable and open

Premise #2 – The more exposed I see that I am by the Cross, the more vulnerable I will be with others about ongoing issues of sin in my life.

There is value in being exposed by the Cross!

1. It reveals the depths of my depravity to myself and to others
2. It also reveals the extravagant grace of our Almighty Savior and our heavenly Father
 - a. To myself
 - b. To others
3. These two revelations create the perfect environment:
 - a. In us – for pride to die and humility to grow
 - i. As I am real about my sin
 - ii. As I ask for help and accountability
 - iii. As I seek wise counsel and prayer
 - b. For others
 - i. To see God at work in us
 1. As we come to them for help (Eccl. 4:9-12; Gal. 6:2)
 - ii. To hear the Good News!
 1. As we live out the Gospel message in front of them

Preaching the Gospel to myself, in response to being exposed, motivates me:

1. To rest in Christ's righteousness
 - a. I am freed from the burden of working my way to heaven
 - b. I can rejoice knowing He maintains my justified status before God (Rom. 5:1-2; 1 John 2:1-2)
2. To have a right outlook on life
 - a. On my worst days of sin and failure, God's grace is unrelenting towards me
 - b. On my best days of victory and usefulness, I can only relate to God based on Jesus' righteousness, not mine

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself - Week 5

Me, the Gospel, and Others

Week 5

The deeper I go into the Gospel message, the more I desire to love others in the way God intends.

These 'others' consist of 3 primary groups:

1. Everyone
2. Fellow Christians
3. Unbelievers

How does God intend me to love everyone?

1. Everyone
 - a. I am to be stimulated to love others as I reflect on the love God has shown me
 - i. Titus 3:1-8
 - b. I am to stand ready to forgive others as I realize how much grace God has shown me
 - i. Eph. 4:32
 - ii. Col. 3:12-13

How does God intend me to love fellow Christians?

1. Fellow Christians
 - a. I am to be increasing in affection for those laboring with me in the Gospel
 - i. I want to encourage them as I see God at work in their lives
 1. Paul's example in Philippians 1:3-7
 2. These fellow Christians are my partners in the Gospel!
 - b. I realize that the Gospel is the best way for me to encourage other believers
 - i. This is "speaking truth" to them
 - ii. I realize I don't just love them because of the Gospel; I love them with the Gospel
 1. This is not limited to words only!
 2. I can live out the Gospel in every way that I relate to them
 - c. I recognize that there is unity in the Gospel message
 - i. The Gospel is a message of reconciliation among all believers!
 1. Eph. 2:14-19
 2. Col. 3:11
 3. Gal. 3:28
 - ii. We are all members of God's household
 - iii. We are all part of each other's inheritance (Eph. 1:18)
 1. Each of us is able to play a part in the other's gospel narrative (Eph. 3:17-19; 2 Tim 2:22)
 2. God designed us to be in relationship with one another!

- iv. Here are some questions to ask myself to stimulate growth
 - 1. What does my lifestyle say about how much I value the church?
 - a. These are the people Christ died to reconcile and bring together!
 - 2. What does my lifestyle say about how much I value the role I play in others' lives?
 - a. God's design has me in relationship with others for mutual encouragement and growth
 - 3. What does my lifestyle say about how much I value the role others play in my life?
 - a. I should allow others 'in' to be a blessing to me and so I can be a blessing to them ("Living life together")
- v. We are unified and one body despite any factors that the world would say separates us
 - 1. Race
 - 2. Economic status
 - 3. Other social barriers

How does God intend me to love unbelievers?

- 1. Unbelievers
 - a. I am to be increasing in my burden for unbelievers to experience the awesomeness of the Gospel
 - i. As I realize how blessed I am each day, I ought to want these blessing for those around me who are outside of Christ
 - ii. This is the dynamic of Paul's life
 - 1. As he rehearses the Gospel truths in Romans 5-8
 - a. Romans 5 – Paul focuses on the believer's righteous standing before God
 - b. Romans 6 – Paul speaks of the freedom from sin that Christ has bought us
 - c. Romans 7 – Paul reflects on the ongoing battle with sin in his own life
 - d. Romans 8 – Paul rejoices that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus
 - 2. What is Paul's response by the time he gets to Romans 9?

I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel.

- a. Why?
 - i. Because his fellow Jews did not believe the Gospel
 - ii. He knew exactly what they were missing out on and the eternal implications of it
- b. Does meditating on the Gospel like this increase my burden for the lost?

Summary of Application

Preaching the Gospel to myself ought to cause me to desire to love others in the way God intends.

Examples of this love include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Loving others radically
- 2. Speaking Gospel truths to my friends
- 3. Being intentional in my relationships with other believers
- 4. Having an increased burden for unbelievers to know the Gospel

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself - Week 6

The Gospel's Effect on How I Live

Week 6

Preaching the Gospel to myself challenges me to be a prayer warrior who is actively doing good works with an attitude of boldness and belief in God's Word!

3 ways PTGTM affects how I live:

1. I will become a prayer warrior
2. I will actively do good works
3. I will develop an attitude of boldness

PTGTM challenges me to be a prayer warrior!

1. How does the Gospel challenge me to pray?
 - a. Jesus' death reveals the painful lengths God took so we could enter His presence in prayer!
 - i. Heb. 4:14-16
 - ii. Heb. 10:19-23
 - b. Jesus' life reflects a habit of faithful prayer
 - i. Luke 5:16
 - c. Jesus' teaching commanded his followers to pray
 - i. Matt. 6:5-9
 - ii. Luke 11:9
 - iii. Luke 18:1-8

Although the conclusion of the argument is in the form of a question that expects a positive answer, it can be reworded as follows: "If the unjust judge yielded to the continuous cries of the widow, who was a stranger, and granted her the vindication she sought (the picture part of the parable), how much more will God, who is just and their loving Father (12:30; 11:2), hear the cries of his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night (the reality part)."¹

- d. Scripture reveals that prayer is an expected fruit
 - i. Col. 4:2 – Focuses on the activity of prayer
 - ii. 1 Thess. 5:17 – Reveals the relationship that prayer cultivates
2. How should I pray?
 - a. With confidence, not doubt
 - i. Heb. 4:16
 - ii. Luke 11:9 – He promises an answer!
 - b. Through faith in Christ
 - i. John 15:5, 16
 - ii. Heb. 11:1 – Definition of faith
 - c. With humility
 - i. Luke 18:9-14

REFLECTION
Take a moment to share how you've seen
God at work through prayer in your life or
another person's life.

¹ Stein, R. H. (1992). Vol. 24: Luke. The New American Commentary (445). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

PTGTM motivates me to actively be doing good works!

1. Why should the Gospel motivate me to do good works?
 - a. Reflecting on God's saving work on my behalf reveals that I have been saved for good works
 - i. Christ redeemed me so that I would be zealous for good works
 1. Titus 2:11-14
 - ii. God works day by day to produce in me the desire and power to work for His good pleasure
 1. Phil. 2:12-13
 2. Paul's testimony – Col. 1:28-29
 - iii. The gospel tells me I am saved by grace through faith, not by works, yet I was created to do good works
 1. Eph. 2:8-10
 - b. God does not forget our good works (Heb. 6:10)
 - c. **Mini-premise:** *The more I embrace the saving work of God on my behalf, the more I embrace the works for which God saved me*
2. How do I practically grow in this area?
 - a. Identify my gifts and abilities
 - i. What am I good at?
 - b. Ask the right questions
 - i. Where is there a need?
 - ii. What am I passionate about?
 - iii. Am I using my time wisely? (Eph. 5:15-16)
 - c. Use my gifts to serve others
 - i. 1 Peter 4:10
 - ii. Gal. 5:13-14
 - iii. Rom. 12

REFLECTION
Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). What are some ways that you've been blessed through doing good works for others?

PTGTM nourishes within me an attitude of boldness and belief in God's Word!

1. How does the Gospel produce this boldness in me?
 - a. It banishes my greatest fear – the fear of God's wrath
 - i. I no longer have to fear daily judgment thanks to Christ's finished work
 1. Rom. 8:1; 1 John 4:17-18
 - ii. This means I have no reason to fear anything, especially man
 1. Matt. 10:28 – God's averted wrath puts everything into perspective!
 - b. As I am transformed by the Gospel, I am emboldened to share it with others
 - i. Like Paul in Rom. 1:16
 - c. The Gospel reminds me where my boldness comes from... God's grace
 - i. I identify with the Apostle Paul in 1 Cor. 15:9-10
 - ii. I boast in the Lord (1 Cor. 1:26-31)
 - iii. I boast in my weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
 - d. The Gospel reminds me of God's forgiveness when I fail and it challenges me to keep pressing on... in His grace

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself - Week 7

Case Study: The Gospel & the Apostle Paul

How did the Gospel and preaching the Gospel to himself influence the Apostle Paul's life?

Reconstructing Paul's Testimony:

Before Christ (Acts 7:54-8:3) → Conversion (Acts 9:1-19) → After Christ (Acts 9:20-31)

Paul's Life Before Christ

- Ravaging the Church (Acts 8:3)
- Throwing men & women into prison (Acts 8:3)
- Zealously living out the law (Phil. 3:5-6)

Paul's Life After Christ

- Building the Church (Acts 9:20-22; Acts 11:25-26)
- Imprisoned for the Gospel (Acts 16:19-34)
- Zealously living out the Gospel (Phil. 3:7-9)

The Gospel has a drastic impact on the direction of Paul's life! He is no longer living to destroy the church, now he is living to build the church! The Gospel enabled radical change in this man's life.

STOP & THINK: How has the Gospel radically changed my life?

Practical Application: Write out my testimony and reflect on the power of the Gospel to save

What can I learn from Paul's example in his letter to the Philippians?

1. Paul's primary purpose - Advancing the Gospel
 - a. The basis for their relationship (1:5)
 - b. The reason for his present circumstances (1:7, 16)
 - c. His exhortation to the Philippians (1:27)
 - d. The examples of Jesus, Timothy, Ephaphroditus and Paul
2. Paul's attitude
 - a. Of rejoicing (Chp. 1, 2 & 4)
 - b. Of contentment (Chp. 1 & 4)
 - c. Of pressing on (Chp. 3)
3. Paul's teaching
 - a. Partnership (1:5, 1:7, 2:1, 3:10, 4:14-15)
 - i. Thematically, the term also shows up as Paul describes the level of unity they are to have as they go about the work of the progress of the Gospel. (1:7, 2:1, 3:10, 4:14-15)
 - b. Right thinking ("reckoning" – all over every chapter!)
 - i. For Paul a person's manner of thinking ought to influence their manner of acting. The process of advancing the Gospel didn't stop with right thinking, it continued on into right actions. Paul demonstrates this from his own life in chapter three.
 - c. Jesus Christ
 - i. The Gospel message is Christ's message and it is this message that they are to be promoting with their lives.
 - ii. Because of Christ's work in his life (and by implication, our lives) he now lives for a new purpose, to "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
 - iii. This purpose finds its fulfillment in joining Christ in heaven, but its implications for Paul's time on earth coincides with advancing the Gospel.
 - d. The 'already, but not yet' (Primarily Chp. 3)
 - i. Paul reminds them that they are not simply citizens of this earth, but citizens of heaven who have an inheritance with Jesus Christ (3:20-21).
 - ii. His hope was in the eternity he knew he would spend with Christ; therefore, he was freed up in this life to fulfill his calling of advancing the Gospel, no matter what his circumstances may be.
4. Paul's focus – On Eternity (1:6, 10; 2:16; 3:10-21)

Three Takeaways from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

1. I am able (and called!) to advance the Gospel; no matter what my circumstances are (Paul was in prison!)
2. One of the ways I advance the Gospel is by doing my part to build unity in the body of Christ (**How can I do this?**)
3. As I focus on eternity with Christ, I am challenged to press on in advancing the Gospel, with an attitude of joy (**Where is my focus each day? Would others describe me as a 'joyful' person?**)

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself - Week 8

Applying Truth to Become More Like Christ

Class Goal: To learn how to extract applicable, life-changing truths from the Gospel message and then apply them to become more like Christ.

Becoming “Like Christ?”

How do I become like anyone?

- I have to know them!



How do I get to know Christ?

- Through the Word!

What does the Word tell me about Christ?

- Philippians 2:5-11
 - Obedient to the Father
 - Humble to the point of death
- John 13 / Mark 10:45
 - Servant of all
- Hebrews 4:14-16
 - A man who was tempted but did not sin
- Hebrews 5:7-8
 - A man of prayer and submission
 - A man who suffered

What does the Word tell me about becoming like Christ?

- Romans 8:28-29 – From the beginning, God has predestined believers to be like Christ!
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 – In the present the Spirit is transforming me to be like Christ as I behold Him!
- 1 John 3:2 – At the completion of all things, I will finally be fully like Christ!

Applying Truth: How have I been challenged to become more like Christ?

Week 1 – What is the Gospel?

- Believing the Gospel requires a response to the Gospel
- Preach the Gospel to myself
 - Reflect on the truth of the Gospel message to stimulate a response of right thinking and right action!
 - Who I am / What God & Christ have done / what my response should be

Week 2 – Circumstances (Full cup of wrath -> Empty Cup -> Cup with some blessings -> Cup full of blessings)

I preach the Gospel to myself daily, therefore ...

- I am first grateful for the wrath that I'm not receiving
- I'm grateful for the blessings that are given to me!
 - "Life's blessings, however small, always appear exceedingly precious when viewed against the backdrop of the wrath I deserve"
- I now desire to give thanks in every circumstance (1 Thess. 5:18)
 - Trials are for my good and God's glory!
- I fight for contentment like Paul in Philippians 1 & 4

Week 3 – Sin

I preach the Gospel to myself daily...

- To be filled with its truths and to find my satisfaction in Christ so I won't be empty and looking for sin to fill me!
- To nullify the power of sin's guilt over me, as I remember that I am forgiven as I confess and repent of my sin!

Week 4 – View of Self (“Exposed by the Cross”)

I preach the Gospel to myself daily...

- And realize the depth of my sinfulness which leads me to confess and cry out to Him
- To respond in praise and thanksgiving as I consider the magnitude of God's saving grace & forgiveness
- To rest in Christ's righteousness
 - I am freed from the burden of working my way to heaven
 - I can rejoice knowing He maintains my justified status before God (Rom. 5:1-2; 1 John 2:1-2)
- To have a right outlook on life
 - On my worst days of sin and failure, God's grace is unrelenting towards me
 - On my best days of victory and usefulness, I can only relate to God based on Jesus' righteousness, not mine

Week 5 – View of Others

I preach the Gospel to myself daily...

- To desire to love others in the way God intends.
 - Everyone
 - To be stimulated to love others as I reflect on the love God has shown me
 - To stand ready to forgive others as I realize how much grace God has shown me
 - Believers
 - To be increasing in affection for my fellow believers
 - To be speaking Gospel truths to my friends
 - To be intentional to build unity in my relationships with other believers
 - Unbelievers
 - To increase my burden for unbelievers to know the Gospel

Week 6 – How I live

I preach the Gospel to myself daily...

- To become a prayer warrior (Col. 4:2)
- To actively do good works (Titus 2:14)
- To develop an attitude of boldness (Rom. 1:16)

Week 7 – Case Study: Apostle Paul

I learn from others who have gone before me in preaching the Gospel to themselves daily...

- I am able (and called!) to advance the Gospel; no matter what my circumstances are (Paul was in prison!)
- One of the ways I advance the Gospel is by doing my part to build unity in the body of Christ (**How can I do this?**)
- As I focus on eternity with Christ, I am challenged to press on in advancing the Gospel, with an attitude of joy (**Where is my focus each day? Would others describe me as a 'joyful' person?**)