

## KNOWING THE GOSPEL

**MAIN IDEA:** If we are going to follow Jesus Christ, we must know the Gospel.

**SINGLE FOCUS MISSION STATEMENT:** The Single Focus ministry exists to help single young adults find and follow Jesus by knowing, loving, living, and giving the gospel to the glory of God.

- **Knowing the gospel:** have a rich, yet practical understanding of Christ and His work both as taught throughout Scripture and as experienced in one's personal life.

**INTRO:** Do you know the Gospel? What is the Gospel to you? Is it a piece of paper you hand out sometimes? Is it a buzzword that seems to get old at times? Is it something you believed a long time ago?

**THE GOSPEL:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- "...the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved..." (vs. 2)

The Gospel is our lifeline, our passion, our battle cry. It is the power of God in our lives. It isn't simply for the moment we decided to follow Christ, it is for every single day of our lives. We must never get past the Gospel.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Moving from cubbyholes in elementary to lockers in Junior High.

- Thought we were big stuff. We had a locker!
- We moved on to big and better things. Never to return.
- We often treat the gospel this way.

***If we must never get past the Gospel, then our whole life is a continual pursuit of knowing and treasuring this Gospel.***

**TRANSITION:** In two weeks I am going to be speaking on "Living the Gospel", so I will try to wait till then to talk through specific day to day applications, but I want to look at 3 different aspects of the Gospel. I would like to simply remind us, in case we have forgotten.

## I. KNOWING THE COMFORT OF THE GOSPEL

Because of the Gospel...

- I have peace with God (Rom. 5:1) – God's wrath is no longer on you. The war has ended between you and God. He has declared peace.
- I stand in grace (Rom. 5:2) – Not only had God declared peace with you, but you who were once His enemy is now the object of His undeserving favor!
- I will never face God's wrath (Rom. 8:1) – Because Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, was condemned for you, you will never face condemnation.
- I can have victory over my sin (Rom. 6) – If you are enslaved in sin right now it is because you are choosing to be enslaved. The Gospel has broken the chains that once held you.
- I have eternal life (John 3:16) – Because of the Gospel I have eternal life.
- I will live with Christ forever! (1 Thess. 5:9-10) – WOW!
- Etc.

This is probably not the first time you have heard these truths, and it won't be the last. But maybe today you need to go back and remind yourself of these truths.

Our job is not to simply know the facts, but to meditate and dwell on these truths so much that we live them. We experience them.

**APPLICATION:** What areas of Gospel comfort do you need to be reminded of today?

- Is your spirit restless for fear of being abandoned by God?
- Have you forgotten that because of Christ you will always be favored by God?
- Do you fear death and judgment?
- What sin battle has beaten you time and time again?
- Are you living in light of eternity?

***Know the comforts of the gospel again. Dwell on them. Study them. Dig into them.***

**TRANSITION:** The Gospel comforts us, but it will also cost us.

## II. KNOWING THE COST OF THE GOSPEL (MARK 8:34-38)

### A. THE COST OF THE GOSPEL IS NOT EASY

- The Gospel comforts us, but it is not a life of comfort.
- “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
- Christ had just prophesied that He would be “rejected” and “killed”, He knew the cost.
- If you want to follow Christ you must...
  - Deny Self
  - Take Up Your Cross
  - Follow Him

### B. THE COST OF THE GOSPEL IS WORTH IT

- “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

**ILLUSTRATION:** I want everyone to imagine with me for a second...You are 85 years old. You are on your death bed. You are about to take your last breath, and you know it. Your family is all around. You are one moment away from eternity. Suddenly, everything falls into perspective. At that moment...

- Your job doesn’t matter.
- Your money means absolutely nothing.
- Your favorite sports team is nonexistent.
- Your college degree is long gone
- Your spouse in a few moments will not be your spouse anymore.

The only thing that matters is your relationship with Christ and how you have invested in that relationship and making disciples.

***Give your life for the gospel’s sake. It will cost you. But when you stand before your savior one day, it will all be worth it!***

**TRANSITION:** Knowing the Gospel involves knowing its comfort and its cost. But it also involves knowing its Christ.

## III. KNOWING THE CHRIST OF THE GOSPEL

- This is what the Gospel is all about. We do not follow a teaching. We follow a Person, Jesus.
- At the center of what we are called to know is Jesus Christ. Are you pursuing a standard today, or are you pursuing Christ?

### A. THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST – ISAIAH 53:5-6

- He was pierced for our transgressions
- He was crushed for our iniquities
- Because he was wounded, we are healed
- We went astray
- We went our own way
- So God punished Christ for our wrongdoing.

***This is how far your savior is willing to go to rescue you from your own sin, which he had no part of.***

### B. THE VICTORY OF CHRIST – 1 CORINTHIANS 15:25-28

- Christ will put all his enemies to rest.
- He will crush death.
- He will be in control of all.
- “that God may be all in all.” (ESV Student Study Bible) “...God’s supreme authority over everything will be eternally established, never to be challenged again.”

Final outcome: He won!!!!

**ILLUSTRATION:** I like to think of climbers climbing a mountain. One by one they drop in pain and agony. They can’t do it. And as people begin to drop, there is one climber who seems to not even be breathing hard. His pace is light and steady. He begins to pass all the other climbers who have failed to reach the top. As he passes them they slowly begin to

cheer him on as if to say, "There is hope." As the climber gets closer and closer to the top the cheers get louder. Finally he does what not one else could, reaches the top. And as he humbly stand at the top, the rest of the climbers, in reverence, say to themselves, "He has done it. Many have tried, and failed, but this one has done it!"

***This is the gospel!***

**CONCLUSION:** We have only explored 3 aspects of the Gospel. May this simply ignite the flame of passion for Christ and His Gospel in your hearts. We are being called to know the comfort of the Gospel, to embrace the cost of the Gospel, and each and every day of our lives pursue the Christ of the Gospel. Do you know the Gospel?