

# What is the Gospel?

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## Lesson 1 – Gospel Defined

*How would you define the word “Gospel”?*

The word literally means “Good news”. What is that good news? Our first reaction is to say, “the good news is that we have eternal life” but that isn’t where the good news starts. The good news that is to be proclaimed is that Jesus Christ is Lord. Salvation is the result of the good news of Jesus’ Lordship. In other words, the Gospel is primarily about Christ and secondarily about us.

In the Bible the word “gospel” is usually used alongside **making proclamation** of good news more than it is in just the **information itself**. In other words, the Gospel information does no good unless someone is talking about it, shouting about it, and announcing it to those who need to hear it (Acts 8:25, 40; 14:7; 14:21; 15:7; 16:10).

Of the four books of the Bible we call “Gospels” only Matthew and Mark use the word “gospel”. Matthew almost always connects the word “gospel” with “the kingdom of God” (**Read Matt 24:14 & Mark 1:14-15**).

In Matthew and Mark the word “gospel” is used of Jesus’ life and ministry (Matt 2:43 & 9:35) and also of his death (Matt 26:13).

*How are Jesus’ life and ministry “good news”?*

*How are Jesus’ death and resurrection “good news”?*

How about for Paul? How does Paul use the word “gospel”? While the Gospels use the word less than a half dozen times, Paul uses it 60 times!

**Read Romans 1:1-5**

*What does Paul say the gospel is about in these verses?*

*In verses 5-6, what does Paul say the Gospel has to do with us?*

Like the early Christians, we need to understand the good news about Jesus, not just so we can know it in our minds but so that we can also proclaim it to those who need to hear it.

**Read 1 Corinthians 9:15-18**

*How did Paul feel about God’s allowing him to preach the Gospel?*

*Why do you think more Christians don’t feel that way today?*

Proclaiming the Gospel should not be solely about preachers in pulpits preaching sermons on it a few times a year or about a Bible class or Bible study dedicated to reach the lost. Proclaiming the Gospel is something that should flow out of us very naturally because it is about who we are and whose we are and we can't help but share it with anyone who will listen.

Think about it this way – If Jesus is the way to eternal life and you have faith in Christ...should it not burn within our hearts to share that good news to those who are lost and in need of salvation?

**There are two goals for this series on “The Gospel”:**

1. The first goal is that you would understand and are transformed by the Gospel straight from the pages of the Bible.
2. The second is that you might learn it and live it in a way that makes you feel more comfortable sharing it with those who need it.

*Why is it important that our faith is more than just head knowledge?*

It is entirely possible to know all the right answers but be rotten to the core and have no meaningful faith. Our faith must result in Christ-like action, not because our actions earn salvation but because it is the natural fruit produced by a life in tune with God through faith.

So back to our initial question – *“What is the Gospel?”*

**Read these verses and mention some things the Gospel includes:**

- Romans 15:15-16
- Colossians 1:21-21
- Ephesians 1:13 & Colossians 1:5
- Romans 1:16-17
- Colossians 1:3-6

The Gospel has power to save. The Gospel convicts. It cuts the heart. It transforms and makes new creation. The Gospel is God's savings acts as his kingdom defeats the powers of darkness and ultimately restores all things and makes everything new (Acts 3:21 & Rev 21:5). The Gospel is a big deal!

**Application**

*How has your faith impacted your life?*

*What are some areas that the Gospel truth still needs to do some work on?*

*How do you feel you might be able to proclaim the Gospel to those around you?*

## Lesson 2 – The first sin and the penalty of death

The Bible only makes it three chapters before God's perfection creation is marred by the sinful decisions of the first people (Adam and Eve). **Read Genesis 2:15-17**

God gave them a command and desired their obedience. *What was the consequence of disobedience?*

*Why do you think God would give the death penalty for eating forbidden fruit, sounds pretty harsh?*

- There is a principle being taught here...God has expectations for his people and there are consequences for disobedience.

We either choose God or something else (usually self)...God's way or our way. All of life boils down to that. If we choose God and His way of doing things we have the blessing that comes from being in relationship with Him. If we choose our way then we reject the life and blessing that come from God.

**Here are a few verses to consider:**

Isaiah 59:1-2

Romans 3:23-24

Romans 6:23

*What do you get out of these verses?*

Every person who is able to make willful decisions about their life (some call that the age of accountability) have sinned. The penalty of sin is death. That means all deserve to die but God has provided salvation through the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ (more on that in future lessons).

Before we can talk about how God saves us we have to realize that we are in need of being saved. The world doesn't like to talk about or even believe sin is real.

*Why does the world try to reject that there is a right and wrong way to live?*

*Why does the world reject truth?*

*Why is the world, apart from God, lost?*

Those aren't popular things to say but they are biblical, true things to say. We know that because that is what God has told us through scripture.

**Read Ephesians 2:1-3**

It is important that none of us act in an arrogant manner about our faith because we realize that all of us were lost and in need of God at some point in our lives. If we are going to appreciate what salvation is, we have to realize just how badly we need it.

The temptation is to think that we really aren't all that bad of people. But that is just not the case. Here is how the apostle Paul, one of the heroes of our faith, described himself,

### **1 Timothy 1:12-16**

*If that is how Paul describes himself, where does that leave us?*

### **Read Isa 64:6-7**

Isaiah tells us that we have no righteousness of our own...at our best we are like filthy rags.

### **Application**

*Why is it tempting to think that if we just live pretty good lives...maybe a little better than average...that everything should be ok?*

That kind of thinking is deceiving because like Paul said, the wages of sin is death. When you sin the payment is death. There is a way to be saved from that but you have to start with that principle that is outlined over and over again in scripture. The world doesn't want to believe it, but it is still true.

Sin is serious business because sin, apart from Christ, is deadly.

*How do these verses remind you of just how serious sin really is and what does that mean for how you are going to deal with the temptations you are facing today?*

## Lesson 3 – Echoes of Hope

The Old Testament spends quite a bit of time pointing us to Christ. Even in the very first sin, there is a prophesy of Jesus – **Gen 3:14-15**

There are hundreds of predictive prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. Along with that, there are countless stories that give us tiny peaks into the future, echoes of hope along the road to salvation that comes through Christ in the New Testament.

*What are some stories in the Old Testament that remind you of Jesus?*

- Examples might include the exodus, Passover, Elijah/Elisha and many more

The Passover was one of the biggest things in the Old Testament that points the way to Jesus.

### **Read Exodus 12:1-13**

*What similarities do you find in these verses between the Passover and Jesus?*

The exodus is all about judgment and deliverance. The first-born sons of Egypt die while the first-born sons of the Israelites survive. The blood of the lamb saves the Israelites babies from death.

*How is Jesus like that lamb to us?*

### **Read Revelation 5:1-10**

The ultimate irony – nothing gets weaker than a slain lamb and yet this lamb is still alive and is the only one who can reveal the secrets of God.

*Why is Jesus worthy to open the scroll? (see 5:9)*

Jesus was obedient to God even to the point of death. It is because of his sacrifice that we have salvation. But before we get there, let's remember that this news hasn't always been available for all generations. Before Christ, countless generations wanted to understand the things we know today.

### **Read 1 Peter 1:10-12**

*What do these verses say the prophets and those who went before wanted to know?*

*How hard did they search to find out?*

We know the Gospel...many of us have grown up with it our whole lives. The temptation is that once we hear it enough times it can start sounding normal.

*How is the Gospel about as far from “normal” as you can get?*

Immortal God became mortal man and served humanity even to the point of shedding his blood in our place. The guiltless one took on our guilt! Amazing.

*Why is it important that we are reminded just how special the Gospel of Christ really is?*

### **Application**

*If the Gospel is that important that angels and prophets searched to find out what it is all about, what does that say about how we should search the scriptures now that we have them in full?*

*How might you keep scripture in front of you this week so that you can get more in the habit of reading?*

**Exercise:** Spend some time this week looking up Old Testament prophesies of Jesus. There are hundreds of them and it builds our faith to read them and realize these things were written 800-1000 years before Christ!

## Lesson 4 – Salvation Through Jesus Christ

Jesus came into the world at a time that was perfect for the spread of the Gospel. Here are some things that were going on in the world at that time that helped the Gospel spread in a time when communication was word of mouth and the fastest way to get somewhere was a horse or a ship (blown by the wind!)

- Exile – the Jews had been scattered all over the world by the Babylonians 600 years before. This meant that when Paul and others travelled, they could find Jews and synagogues in cities all over the Roman empire. synagogues all over the world who were reading Torah/OT
- Pax Romana – Roman peace
- Roman Roads – allowed for relatively easy travel
- Common language – Greek (you could go almost anywhere and talk with people)
- Location – Israel is at a crossroads that all sorts of trade went through in Jesus' day. That brought people of all backgrounds there that region.

**Read Rom 5:6** – It was an ideal time and place for Jesus to come into the world

### Jesus was God in the flesh

Jesus led a very special life. On one hand he was divine but he was also human. It is vitally important that we believe both of those things. Some people have believed Jesus was only divine and only appeared to be a man. Others have argued Jesus was a man but wasn't divine. In order for Jesus to die for our sins and overcome death he has to be both man and God.

### Read John 1:1-14

*What does this teach us about Jesus' divinity?*

*What does this teach us about Jesus' humanity?*

You find this same point in Hebrews 1 (Jesus was fully divine with all authority) and Hebrews 2 (Jesus was human like us).

### Read Hebrews 1:1-2 & Heb 2:14-18

*What do we learn about Jesus in these verses?*

*Why did Jesus have to be human in order to forgive our sins?*

*Why did Jesus have to be divine in order to forgive our sins?*

Jesus came to bring salvation to the world. – overcoming death required the perfect sacrifice to die. But God is immortal. So he took on flesh through Christ so that he might suffer and die in our place. In order to overcome death he had to have the power of God to defeat Satan, the one who “holds the power of death” in order to free us from sin (Heb 2:14-15).

Now that is good news because it is about God bringing salvation to mankind through Christ. The next few lessons are going to talk about how God saves us through Christ.

**Exercise:** Let’s spend a few minutes telling things we love about our brother Jesus!

**Application**

*If Christ has freed us from the fear of death and from sin, why do we still struggle with sin the way we do? How might this group encourage you through those struggles?*

*What things in your life do you need to let go of in order to embrace God more fully?*

## Lesson 5 – What is Redemption?

We sometimes hear Christ referred to as a redeemer. A redeemer is someone who brings redemption. Those aren't words you use every day. What do they mean? If salvation is what God does for mankind, redemption is how God does it.

*How would you define redemption? (it is ok to be unsure...that is why we have a lesson on it!).*

Redemption is an economic/marketplace word. It basically means the payment of a debt. We use that word sometimes to talk about using coupons. You can "redeem" your coupon at participating stores. That means that if you turn in the coupon they hand you something in return. It is a transaction.

*How do you think salvation is like a transaction?*

### Read Mark 10:45

Mark doesn't use the word redemption here but he uses a word that goes with redemption. He uses the word "ransom" which is the price of redemption. **1 Cor 6:19-20** tells us that we aren't our own because God bought us at a price.

*What does Paul say should be the result of our recognizing that because God bought us we are no longer our own?*

### Read Ephesians 1:3-7

*"redemption through his blood" – what does that mean?*

It means Christ's blood stands in the place of our blood. It should have been us on the cross. Instead he took on the punishment for our sins because of God's grace and has brought us forgiveness of sins! Praise God!

If you are a Christian, you have been redeemed. Your sins have been forgiven. But notice a few verses later Paul says there is another part to redemption – **Read Ephesians 1:13-14**

He says there is more redemption on the way...the final redemption of God's people when Christ returns. So we are saved. We are forgiven. Christ's sacrifice has paid our sin debt but there is more redemption ahead...the redemption of us fully into God's presence. **Ephesians 4:30** calls that the "day of redemption."

If you are a Christian, a price has been paid for your salvation through the death of Christ. He was the ransom payment for your sins and his death on the cross brings you forgiveness. This payment is a release...it is a setting free.

Last this transaction or purchase that God has made of us has brought us from one place to another – **Read Colossians 1:11-14**

*Where did God redeem us from?*

*Where does God redeem us to?*

**Application**

*God has set you free...do we ever still act like we are slaves to sin?*

*How might you show God your profound appreciation for the work of Christ on the cross for you?*

Christ glorified God through his obedience and we should do the same.

## Lesson 6 – What is Reconciliation?

The word reconciliation has to do with broken relationships. *What does it mean to reconcile a broken relationship?*

Now when we think about salvation and the work of Christ we see that Christ is at work reconciling us to God.

*Why is that important that Christ brings real reconciliation between mankind and God?*

### **Read Romans 5:9-11**

The word “justified” means made right. *What does Paul say reconciled us to God? How does Jesus’ blood do that?*

Paul says it was both the death of Jesus and his new life (resurrection) that reconciled us to God. *Paul says reconciliation is not something we earn but it is something we what? (vs 11)*

### **What does reconciliation with God do to us? (Read Colossians 1:19-23)**

Before you know you need to be reconciled you must first understand that the relationship has been broken. *How has our relationship with God been broken? – Sin.*

*Why were we alienated from God?*

*What does our reconciliation with God result in? (vs22-23)*

### **What does this mean we are to do in response to this?**

First, see Colossians 1:23 - *What does Paul say we must do in response to all of this?*

As Christians, we must persevere. We must finish the race. That doesn’t mean we earn our salvation or that our hope is found in our own self-righteousness. That isn’t at all what Paul is saying. Paul is saying that Christ started his work of reconciliation in us and we have to hold on to that.

Second, we carry on the reconciling work of Christ in this world.

### **Read 2 Cor 5:16-21**

*What is our ministry that flows out of Christ reconciling us to God?*

*Why is it important that we pass on to others what we have received from God?*

*How do we actually help reconcile people to God today?*

Paul starts by saying the only way this is going to happen is if we stop seeing people in worldly ways. *What do you think Paul means by that...what are some worldly ways of viewing people?*

*How does viewing people in a worldly way prevent us from reconciling them to Christ?*

God isn't counting our sins against us...and yet sometimes we struggle to forgive others when they sin against us.

*How might these verses help us be more forgiving?*

*How might your life look different if each and every day you saw yourself and your ministry as an ambassador of Jesus Christ?*

Bottom line – God loved you enough to reconcile you back to himself and we have to, have to...do that for others. It isn't an option.

*How might your life group be a reconciling presence in your neighborhood...drawing people closer to God?*

## Lesson 7 – What is Righteousness?

So salvation is about God saving us from sin and death. Redemption is about God paying a price for our sins, Christ in our place. What is righteousness all about? Let's have a look at scripture to find out what it has to tell us about righteousness.

*What do you think the word "righteousness" mean?*

Righteous simply means the state of being in the right. In the Old Testament the word that we translate righteous comes from the word for "straight". This is not in the sense of the guy who has all the right answers. This is about actually living in the right way of life.

Scripture is very clear that we are never righteous on our own, apart from God – **Read Romans 3:21-25**

First Paul talks about God's righteousness. When he talks about us being righteous he doesn't say we have earned it. *What does he say about the righteousness we have in 3:22?*

He says our righteousness was given to us by God. It cannot be earned because we aren't perfect and sin (Romans 3:23). Sin and righteousness don't work together (Rom 6:13). Sin negates righteousness. Because we are human and we sin God is the one who makes us righteous.

*How does Paul say God makes us right(eous)? In these verses?*

*Have you ever known someone who was self-righteous? What did you think about them?*

*Why is self-righteousness such a turn off?*

It is fake...they are just as messed up as anyone else!

**Read Romans 3:27**

*What question does Paul ask here? Why does he ask that?*

His point is that if righteousness can only come from God and not from ourselves then we have nothing to boast about. The world gets sick when it hears and sees arrogant Christians, people who are self-righteous and who forgot that it is only God who can forgive sins.

**Exercise:** Take a moment to think about the sins you have committed. Now, think about God taking all of that and cancelling it out through Christ's death on the cross and marking you as righteous through the forgiving of your sins!

*How does it make you feel to think about what God has done for you in making you righteous?*

*Are you ever tempted to think your own righteousness will be good enough?*

Sometimes people trust in their own righteousness, thinking that if they are just a little better than the next guy then heaven is a sure thing. That is just not what scripture teaches. Being a Christian isn't about being a little better than a non-Christian or trying to achieve more good than bad deeds on the scales of life. It is about being made righteous by Christ's sacrifice for our sins. That makes us holy, pure and spotless. When we do sin, God is faithful to forgive us – **1**

**John 1:9**

### **Application**

*How comfortable are you seeing yourself as righteous through Christ's sacrifice?*

*How can we be righteous without turning that into being self-righteous?*

*Do you really trust that God is faithful to forgive your sins are do you ever worry He won't? How can you overcome that fear?*

## Lesson 8 – The Resurrected Lord and New Life in Christ

The biggest question humanity has ever faced is how are we to overcome death. Every religion has its own answer to that question and most world religions say it is all up to you. If you live right, do right, meditate right or have enough good karma then you can ultimately become divine.

Christianity is the opposite. Christianity states on the front end that on our own we are helpless and hopeless. We cannot do enough good to defeat the grave. We need help from the outside, from someone with more power and authority than we have.

In walks Jesus. He is God in the flesh (John 1:14). He is fully human and takes on our sin on the cross in order to die and defeat death, putting death in its rightful place and giving eternal life to all who would believe.

Here is how Paul said it – **1 Cor 15:20-22**

Jesus shows that through his resurrection we too can be raised from the dead. That is the answer to the fundamental question of humanity. We don't defeat death. We don't have an answer for death. But God does and God has through Christ.

As Christians, we see death as a good thing because we know that our loved ones who are in Christ go on to be with the Lord. But it is important to remember that at its core, death is not the way things are supposed to be. In fact, God sees death as an enemy to be defeated (which He did through Christ). **Read 1 Cor 15:25-26**

*Why is death our enemy?*

*Why is it important that death has been defeated?*

**Read 1 Cor 15:56-58**

*What does Christ bring over death?*

Jesus' victory over death reminds us that death was a power to be defeated. Death is not our friend. Death is the enemy of God.

*What does Paul say to do in response to this information?*

3 things – stand firm, let nothing move you, always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord.

*Do you ever have a hard time with any or all of those three things?*

*How might the resurrection of Christ and the defeat of death help you do those things?*

If Christ has defeated death, what should you fear? The worst thing the world can do to you is send you to be with God. In the first century the Romans marveled at how well the Christians died in the Coliseum. They died with peace and dignity because they had hope.

**Read 2 Cor 5:17 and Galatians 6:15**

*What does resurrection have to do with us being “new creations” in Christ?*

**Read 2 Cor 4:7-12**

*How well do you relate with being an earthen vessel or pot that has a treasure from God in it?*

Paul says that death and life work together. In order to live for God you have to die to self. In order for Christ’s resurrection life to be shown as at work in your life you have to first die to all things opposed to the Lordship of Christ. Jesus’ death and new life are both at work in us so that we can embrace the life that comes through Christ to those who have faith.

*How is Christ’s new life revealed in us to those around us?*

If people knew you before you were a Christian, they might be surprised to see the new life you have found in Christ. It is hard to deny it when a real and obvious difference is made in someone’s life. Or maybe you have been a Christian pretty much your whole life...and it doesn’t seem like much has changed. Realize that every single day Christ makes a difference in your life.

**Application:**

*What in your life do you still need to “die” to?*

*Who is someone you know who needs to hear the good news about resurrection and forgiveness?*

**Prayer** – Pray that God will empower us to live for him 100%.

## Lesson 9 – Our Response: Faith, Repentance & Baptism

*How would you sum up the Gospel message at this point?*

When people in the Bible heard the Gospel message they were convicted by their own sinfulness and their need to turn to Christ for salvation. That conviction is called faith. The Bible repeatedly talks about salvation coming to people who have faith in Christ – **Rom 3:22, 28; 5:1-2, Eph 2:8, etc**

Faith is more than just believing in Jesus – the demons do that (James 2:19). Faith is active and is reflected in a life that is committed to Christ. Demons don't do that!

### **Read Acts 2:36-38**

One of the first things that faith will produce in our lives is repentance. Repentance is just a word that means to turn.

*What does repentance turn us from?*

*What does repentance turn us to?*

Next Peter tells them to be baptized. Baptism is part of the response of faith that we submit to. Baptism is done to us. It is not something we do to ourselves. It shows that we are in full submission to the Lordship of Christ and that we are willing to be obedient to the command of Christ (**Matthew 28:19**).

Baptism connects us with the resurrection of Christ – **Read Romans 6:4-6**

### **Old life/new life**

Through baptism we put away or put to death our old way of life and embrace new life in Christ. This is the new creation we talked about in the last lesson. One of the things that marks that new life is the Holy Spirit that Peter says we receive when we are baptized.

*What have you heard about the Holy Spirit?*

### **Here are a few things the New Testament teaches concerning the Spirit God gives us:**

- John 6:63 – The Spirit gives life
- John 14:16 – The Spirit is our counselor
- John 16:13 – The Spirit will guide us in all truth
- Rom 8:2 – Spirit sets us free
- Rom 8:26-27 – Spirit helps us and intercedes to God on our behalf
- Gal 5:22-23 – The Spirit produces fruit in the life of the Christian
- 2 Cor 1:22 – Spirit is a deposit toward what God has planned for us

- Eph 1:13 – the Spirit seals us for eternity

Here is what all of this points to – being a Christian is about transformation into a new way of being and a new way of living. In other words, we really do have new life in Christ and that faith, repentance and baptism are living life in line with who God is making us to be.

We will close this lesson with a look at repentance in the life of the Christian. Repentance is not just something people have to do to come to Jesus. Repentance is also a regular part of the life of Christians. If you read the first three chapters of Revelation, you will read messages God had for 7 churches in the first century. In those 7 messages, Christians are told to repent 6 times! Repentance isn't something you do once to become a Christian and then you are good. Repentance continues throughout our lives.

*Why is regular repentance an important part of the life of each and every believer?*

*What does it show about our heart based on our willingness to or not to repent?*

The common element in all four of these things (faith, repentance, baptism and the Holy Spirit) is that we submit to Christ's Lordship.

### **Application**

*Do you ever struggle with faith?*

*Do you ever struggle with submitting to God in all your ways?*

*How might we strengthen our faith?...maybe we need more repentance.*

## Lesson 10 – Our Response: Fruit of the Spirit

In the last lesson the fruit of the Spirit were mentioned. We are going to spend a few more minutes talking about those in this lesson. Two things to notice about the phrase itself:

- 1 - The fruit of the Spirit is singular. In other words, these things all go together
- 2 – The phrase is possessive, so another way of saying “fruit of the Spirit” is “the Spirit’s fruit”. We don’t tend to talk like that. We don’t say things like “the dog of Mary”. We say “Mary’s dog.” Or we say “The Church of Christ” rather than “Christ’s church” but it is really all the same thing.

### **Let’s look at each one...**

**Love** – This is the word agape. The Bible has a lot to say about love: God’s love, our love and here...how life lived in line with the Spirit is a life that will produce love.

*Why is love a necessary quality of character and action for Christians to exhibit?*

### **Read 1 John 4:19-21**

*What does that teach us about how essential love is in the life of the Christian?*

**Joy** – Joy is something we are supposed to be full of (See Acts 13:52 and the connection joy has with the Holy Spirit). *Why is joy an important part of the life of a Christian?*

Just like with love, there are times it is hard to have joy. *What can we do in times joy is hard to come by?*

**Peace** – In scripture, peace is not the absence of conflict. Peace is wholeness of life, even in the midst of conflict. Have you ever been in the midst of a lot of tension and still had a peace about things? On the flip side - *Have you ever had a time where things seemed calm but you were still very anxious and struggled to find peace?*

*How does that happen?*

*Why is it true, lasting peace only be found in God?*

**Patience/Kindness** – *Have you ever decided to not pray for patience just because you thought God might test you out?*

*Why is patience an important part of the life of a believer?*

*How might relying on the Holy Spirit as our helper, guide and Counselor (as we saw in the previous lesson) help us have more patience?*

**Goodness** – *What do you think this one is all about?* This isn't about self-righteousness. This is about finding the good and embracing things that are right and holy and good.

**Faithfulness** – God is always faithful, 100%. We are not always 100% faithful. When you follow Christ, He calls you to faithfulness. You cannot be married to Christ and the world. The Bible calls that spiritual adultery.

*Do you ever flirt with the world or even have an all out affair with the world?*

*How might you increase your faithfulness?*

**Gentleness** – Some people are just naturally gentle. Others of us have to really work at it. *What is it about gentle people that is so appealing?*

*Do you ever struggle to be gentle toward other people?*

*How does gentleness go with some of the other "fruit of the Spirit"?*

**Self-control** – This might be the hardest one of all for many of us. Discipline is tough. *Do you ever struggle with self-control?*

*What is the last thing Paul tells us about these things at the end of verse 23?*

*What does that mean?*

If you live a life full of these qualities you will live a life as God intended.

## Lesson 11 – Our Response: Outreach (Part 1)

**Read these three passages of scripture and then discuss...**

1. **Matthew 7:24-25** – The wise man is the one who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice...
2. **Luke 6:46** – Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do what I say?
3. **Matthew 28:18-20** – go make disciples
4. **Luke 10:2** – “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

*Is there a disconnect in the church between some pretty clear commands of Jesus to all Christians and what we are actually doing when it comes to reach out to non-Christians?*

*If so, why do you think that is?*

*How might we do a better job of being faithful to these commands?*

*What would it take to get you out there in the harvest field doing the work Christ called us to do?*

*What is it that motivates you to do the things you choose to do?*

Often the thing that motivates us to do many of the things we do is that there is something in it for us. When it comes to outreach, there really isn't much in it for you. It is all about God and others and so the motivation factor is often low because people would rather invest their time in things they get something in return for.

*How do we overcome that line of thinking?*

First, we have to call it for what it is...that is worldly, not godly.

Second, we have to realize that God called us to things that won't always be comfortable and yet we must be faithful (remember the fruit of the Spirit from last week?).

**Exercise:** have a discussion in your group about people you can pray for and invite to Sunday worship, small group or have over in your home to make inroads toward with the Gospel.

**Pray over these names**

## Lesson 12 – Wrap Up

**Put the Gospel in your own words:**

**Put our response to the Gospel in your own words:**

**Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

That is a pretty good summary of the Gospel...just take Paul out and put yourself in those verses.

*When you replace Paul with you and re-read those verses, what do you get out of it?*

*What has stood out to you the most in these lessons?*

*What is something that surprised you or you never had thought of before?*

*What verses would you like to read again and share from with the group that we have covered over the last few months?*

*How does the Gospel impact your life personally?*

*How might you use the Gospel to impact the lives of others?*

## Lesson 13 – Wrap up