



EQUIP



Gospel for Life

Scripture

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.” *1 Corinthians 15:1-2*

“... the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth.” *Colossians 1:5-6*

Study

The Extent of the Gospel

- The gospel is not only the basis for conversion but for all Christian growth.
- After receiving the gospel, we are to stand in it and hold fast to it (*1 Corinthians 15:1-2*).

The Recipients of the Gospel

- The gospel is for unbelievers *and* believers.
- Christians need to constantly be reminded of the gospel.

The Ongoing Need for the Gospel

- The answer for our ongoing struggle with sin is the all-sufficient power of the gospel.
 - *We have been* saved from the penalty of sin.
 - *We are being* saved from the power of sin.
 - *We will be* saved from the presence of sin.
- The solution for sin is not simply trying harder but trusting in Jesus and living in light of His life, death, and resurrection.
- The continual response to the gospel is faith and repentance.

The Power of the Gospel

- The gospel is the motivation for holy living.
- The Holy Spirit empowers Christian growth as He applies the finished work of Christ to our lives.
- It is only through the gospel that we are able to live in accordance with the law.
 - The law is what God commands. The gospel is what God gives.
 - The way that one understands the purpose of the law will result in either gospel-driven discipleship or rule-keeping religion.
- When the gospel takes root in the heart, it bears fruit in life (*Colossians 1:5-6*).

Discussion

- Imagine you're counseling a person after church and when you mention the gospel, he or she says, "I've been a Christian for ten years! This doesn't have to do with whether I've accepted the gospel or not." How would you respond?
- In the following examples, trace each problem back to the root issue (disbelief of the gospel in a person's heart). How would you apply the gospel in each specific situation? 1) A Christian who is having difficulty forgiving someone. 2) A Christian who struggles with self-image. 3) A Christian who is stingy with his or her money. 4) A Christian stuck in a reckless cycle of going from relationship to relationship.