

GOSPEL FLUENCY

APPLYING THE GOSPEL THROUGH SCRIPTURE

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THE GOSPEL BRINGS CHANGE

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek

- *Salvation = being freed from sin*
- *The Gospel is the power of God to free us from the guilt/power/presence*
- *Everyone who sins is a slave to sin and The Gospel is the only thing powerful enough to free us*
- *Advice is cough syrup to someone with pneumonia. Relieves some symptoms but doesn't deal with the problem at all*

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works

What is the Gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

- Jesus died for our sins and rose again.

Colossians 1:19-22 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him...

- *We were alienated from God because of our sin, but God has reconciled us to himself through the cross.*

GOSPEL FOR DEEP IDOLS

Gospel For Acceptance Idolatry

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine

- Because Christ has already fully obeyed the voice of God and kept His covenant on our behalf, we become God's treasured possession in Christ

Matthew 3:16-17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold a voice from heaven said, "this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- The Father makes a scene to pronounce His pleasure in and love for His Son when He is baptized. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father feels the same way about us as He does about Christ.

Gospel For Power Idolatry

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Habakkuk 3:19a God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

Gospel For Comfort Idolatry

2 Corinthians 1:5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

- *True lasting comfort comes from joining Christ in suffering (probably by doing some difficult things).*

Psalms 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.

Psalms 119:76-77 Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.

Isaiah 12:1-2 You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

- *True comfort is rooted in the fact that though God had wrath towards us, Jesus has appeased that wrath and welcomed us into a living relationship with the living God. Finding comfort there invites us into living from that comfort, not for it.*

Gospel For Control Idolatry

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- *If God was in control even in the death of his son, can't he be trusted when our lives seem out of control too? The cross shows us how trustworthy God is.*

Romans 8:38-39 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- *There is nothing that could happen in your life that would keep you away from the one thing you need—the love of God in Christ.*

Luke 12:25-30 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

- *The hard truth is that you are absolutely not in control, but that's not the end of the story. You have a heavenly Father who is in control and knows exactly what you need.*

GOSPEL FOR DOUBTING GOD'S CHARACTER/PROMISES

Gospel For Doubting God's Grace/Forgiveness

(Also Gospel for Shame and Feeling Unclean)

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Micah 7:18-19 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. 19You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Daniel 9:9 The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him;

Matthew 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Leviticus 16:30 for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

- *The ultimate Day of Atonement was when Christ died for the sins of His people. His people are now forever clean*

Jeremiah 33:8 'I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me and by which they have transgressed against Me.

Gospel For Feeling Defined By Past

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!

Ezekiel 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Gospel For Doubting God's Love

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ -- by grace you have been saved

1 John 4:9-11 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have love God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another

Isaiah 30:18 [The Lord Will Be Gracious] Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him

GOSPEL FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

Gospel For Suffering

2 Corinthians 1:5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

- *Jesus identifies with our suffering, and is with us in it to comfort us.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- *God comforts us in suffering, in order that we might learn to comfort others in theirs.*
- *You (as a LifeGroup leader) can be a tangible example of God's presence in suffering, by being present yourself.*
- *When in doubt, be there.*

Psalms 40:11 As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me

- *mercy = compassion/hurting with those that are suffering from the effects of sin*

GOSPEL FOR SPECIFIC SIN STRUGGLES

Gospel for Habitual Sin & Addiction

Romans 6:1-4 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- *Because of Jesus, we have the ability and motivation to say no to sin.*
- *Our sin has been put to death along with Jesus, so that we might be raised to power over sin.*

Gospel For Sexual Sin

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body

- *Your body does not belong to you b/c Christ has bought (redeemed) you, which means He owns your body and gets to say what you do with it.*

Gospel For Struggling To Forgive

Hebrews 10:30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people"

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Gospel For Loving Others

1 John 4:9-11 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have love God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another