

Sermon Quotes
January 7th, 2007
Good of the Gospel Series- Intro

“We are not justified by the gospel and then sanctified by obedience, but the gospel is *the way we grow* and are renewed. It is the solution to each problem, the key to each closed door, the power through every barrier. It is very common in the church to think as follows: ‘The gospel is for non-Christians. One needs it to be saved. But once saved, you grow through hard work and obedience.’ But Col.1:6 shows that this is a mistake...All our problems come from a failure to apply the gospel...The main problem, then, in the Christian life is that we have not thought out the deep implications of the gospel, we have not *used* the gospel in and on all parts of our life.”

—Tim Keller

“On the one hand, the gospel has content—it is a profound doctrine. It is *truth*, and specifically, it is the truth about *God’s grace*. But on the other hand, this truth is **a living power** that **continually expands its influence** in our lives, just as a crop or a tree would grow and spread, and dominate more and more of an area with its roots and fruit.”

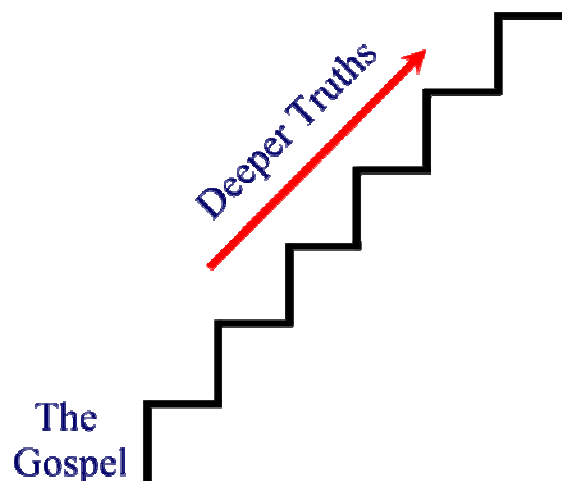
—Tim Keller

John 10:10 “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

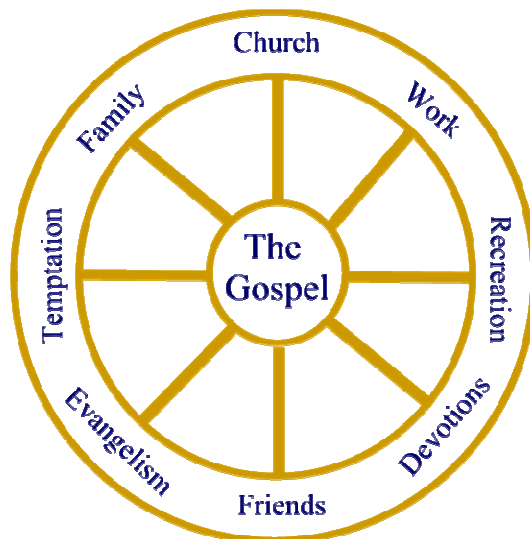
John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

“I believe the greatest need of the hour is a revived and joyful church...Unhappy Christians are, to say the least, a poor recommendation for the Christian faith; and there can be no doubt but that the exuberant joy of the early Christians was one of the most potent factors in the spread of Christianity.”

—D. Martin Lloyd-Jones



“We never get beyond the gospel in our Christian life to something ‘more advanced.’ The gospel is not the first step in a stairway of truths...” — Tim Keller



“...Rather, it is more like the **hub in a wheel of Truth**... The gospel is not just the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the Kingdom, but the way we make **all progress** in the Kingdom.”

—Tim Keller

Symptoms of Not Living in the Good of the Gospel:

- You generally lack joy in your walk with God.
- You worry about a lot of things and think way more than you pray.
- You only experience happiness when you get things you want or things go your way.
- You look for happiness more from earthly things than the things of God.
- You seldom confess sins anymore, and so, seldom experience the deep joy of being forgiven.
- When you serve, you don't really enjoy it.
- Your faith is more in your head than in your heart.
- You rarely have consistent quiet times or, if you do, you treat it more like a duty than a joy.
- You've stopped growing in your faith, and aren't becoming more like Christ in any noticeable ways.

“A local church is healthy to the degree that: (1) Its pastor-teachers are able to accurately, effectively, and broadly bring the gospel to bear in the real lives of their people. (2) Its people have a deep personal understanding of and appreciation for the gospel, so as to be able to **live in the good of the gospel daily.**”

—Mike Bullmore

“If there's anything in life we should be passionate about, it's the gospel. And I don't mean passionate only about sharing it with others. I mean passionate in thinking about it, dwelling on it, rejoicing in it, allowing it to color the way we look at the world. Only one thing can be of **first importance** to each of us. And **only the gospel ought to be.**”
—CJ Mahaney

“The gospel is not only the most important message in all of history; it is the only essential message in all of history. Yet we allow thousands of professing Christians to live their entire lives without clearly understanding it and experiencing **the joy of living by it.**”

—Jerry Bridges

"Many believers live a **gospel gap** in their lives: They have some sense of the past forgiveness of our sins and future promise of heaven but without understanding or experiencing the **power of the gospel in the present**...The monotony of life lulls us to sleep, and we miss the miraculous presence of Christ...But Scripture says that the opposite should be true for the individual Christians and for the church. We should not—and need not—live long seasons of life with **gospel amnesia.**"

—Paul David Tripp