

**The Power and Purpose of the Gospel**  
Message 02 of 05 in the series: "Stronger"

***The gospel is that God himself has come to rescue and renew creation in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. ~ Tim Keller***

- The Gospel is core to everything we do and are as the Church.
- The Gospel of Jesus is not just the starting point; it is the middle and the end...

Ultimately, it's all about Jesus!

***2 ways to look at the gospel, and it takes BOTH to have the full picture:***

1. Thematically

**God** (*eternal, all powerful, creator of everything*)

**Sin** (*Humanity has all chosen self-rule over submission, in relationship, to God; the penalty for sin is death.*)

**Jesus** (*God incarnate came to die as a substitute for the penalty of humanity's sins*)

**Faith** (*By faith in what Jesus did, not by any effort of our own, we are saved from our sins.*)

In this case, the *good news* is that God is completely aware of our sin problem, and in and through the work of Jesus Christ, accepts us AND changes us by the **power** of his Spirit.

**The gospel is God's Power to Save**

***The Power of God for salvation...***

When by faith we...Repent (our mind is made up that God is God) and Believe (accept that what God has said / done is true and sufficient)...

We have the forgiveness of sins:  
Justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone

We have new life by and in the Spirit:  
We were spiritually dead, but now we are alive in Christ by his Spirit!

**In Jesus, we are children of God who are forgiven, justified by Jesus' work, loved, and accepted – we have no need to do good works to be justified and accepted...**

1. We have been saved from the penalty of sin (justification),
2. We are being saved from the power of sin (sanctification) and...
3. We will be saved from the presence of sin.

Our justification (by Christ) leads to our sanctification (by the Spirit). That's our glorification.

**But God, in Jesus Christ, has given us both the MESSAGE of reconciliation (Gospel Power) and the MINISTRY of reconciliation (Gospel Purpose).**

### **2 Corinthians 5:17-19**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation... *And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

**Ephesians 2:10** *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

**Here we come to know the *reason* for salvation. And this is the second lens we need to look through.**

2. We need to look at the gospel through the lens of a story...

Creation → Fall → Redemption → Restoration

In this case, the *good news* is that God sent his Son to redeem the world from the effects of sin and create a new humanity. Eventually the whole world will be renewed to the way God originally created it.

**Rebellion, death, decay, injustice, and suffering will one day all be removed.**

→→The **purpose** of the gospel is ultimately about RESTORATION.

**The Gospel is not just about my individual happiness or God's plan for my life.**

**It is about God's plan for the world.**

When we repent of our sin and receive the new life that Jesus has offered us, we begin a journey of restoration inside and out. And not just for us—but for the entire world!

***"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."***

**A word of caution:** We do not usher in the kingdom in its fullness by going out and restoring things... There are those who believe the church's job is to restore the planet **SO THAT** the kingdom of God will be accomplished. Some believe that once we get enough stuff restored, Jesus will return. But the Bible teaches that Jesus is the one who is the restorer of all things, and he uses us in HIS plans to accomplish restoration. When Jesus returns—all things will be restored to the way God created them. **His job. His restoration. We submit to and participate in that restoration.**

→→Jesus gave us his Gospel Plan for accomplishing the Purpose of the gospel:

**Matthew 28: Go and Make Disciples.**

**Q: Why do you think that making disciples is God's plan for restoration?**

**When disciples of Jesus fill the earth...the Earth will be filled with God's Glory!**

**Psalm 72:19**

Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

**Jesus declared,** "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." (John 14:9) Paul writes that "He is the image of the invisible God." (Colossians 1:15)

**Hebrews 1:** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

**Jesus is the Glory of God!**

☆ **The Purpose of the Gospel is that the whole world would be filled with Jesus!**

**Jesus is the glory of God and Jesus alone brings restoration!**

**Making disciples who fill the world is the Plan that accomplishes the Purpose.**

**This is why it is crucial that the church be completely focused on making disciples!**

**Ephesians 1:** I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That **power** is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. **[purpose]**

**→→The Gospel saves us and restores us and then sends us out to make disciples who make disciples...**

**There is a danger of not having BOTH Gospel perspectives...**

**man-centered Gospel or.... a social Gospel**

**We need both lenses, both perspectives!**

Caesar Kalinowski • 01-08-23 • [caesar@everydaydisciple.com](mailto:caesar@everydaydisciple.com)

**Connect Group Questions:**

1. Share an area of your life in which you'd like to grow stronger this year?
2. Read Matthew 28:19-20. What does "making disciples" mean to you? Who is the best disciple-maker you know?
3. Which do you tend to focus on most - Gospel Power (the message of reconciliation) or Purpose (the ministry of reconciliation)?
4. Read Romans 1:16-17. What does it look like to be ashamed of the gospel?
5. What would change in your life if you were to take seriously the Purpose of the Gospel and discipleship as a lifestyle?
6. Discuss the following statements about salvation through Jesus Christ:
  - We *have been* saved from the *penalty* of sin (justification). (Romans 5:6-11, 1 Peter 3:18)
  - We *are being* saved from the *power* of sin (sanctification). (Romans 7:19-8:2)
  - We *will be* saved from the *presence* of sin (glorification). (Revelation 21:3-5)
- Why is it important to discuss these things?
7. Spend some time as a group praying that everyone in our church will have a stronger grip on the power and the purpose of the gospel.