



Week 1: Get the Gospel

Warm-Up Question:

Share a time or experience in your life that you consider as “powerful” and why you think of it as powerful.

READ: Romans 1:16-17; Philippians 3:4-9

- From Phil. 3:4-9, what was the “gain” Paul considered he had from all the “righteousness” he produced in his life? How could he say they were “rubbish” (= dung). How could they be considered “filthy rags” in Is. 64:6?
- Why is it difficult to admit that all our good or “righteous” works are like this?
- Rom. 1:17 says the gospel provides us a righteousness “of” (= from) God. How is this is different from our need to produce a righteous “for” God.
- Rom. 1:16 says this gospel is the “power” (“dynamis” in greek, where we get “dynamite”) of God. In what ways is the gospel powerful in our lives?

I. GOSPEL POWER TRANSFORMS THE MOST RESISTANT: PERSON

- Is the default of your mind/heart/actions on a given day or week more what you must do for Christ or what Christ has already done for you? (Consider things like Bible time/prayer, tithing, volunteering, etc)
- The more you realize all the righteousness of Jesus is actually imputed (credited) to you already, discuss how will it affect the following areas:
 - View of God’s delight in you • Need to prove self • Need of approval
 - Reaction to criticism • Love of spouse/children • Judging others

II. GOSPEL POWER TRANSFORMS THE MOST RESISTANT: CHURCH

- How does already having the righteousness of Jesus empower you to be more honest about your sin/failures around family, friends, or small group?
- How does the selfless love of Jesus for you motivate you to live more selfless for others? How does it produce a “I want to” versus “I need to”?
- How does awareness of our own sinfulness and Jesus’s righteousness freely credited to us produce a more welcoming church (or small group)?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

To Study the Text First

- ◆ What’s the main theme?
- ◆ What does it say about God (Father/Son/Holy Spirit)?
- ◆ What does it say about us?
- ◆ What is God calling us to do (imperatives/commands)?
- ◆ Why is it hard to do that (Our sin, weakness, idolatry, finiteness, inconsistency)?
- ◆ Where do you see God’s grace in the work of Jesus?
- ◆ How does God’s grace motivate and empower us to do what is calling us to do?

Go Deeper into Application

- ◆ How would this change my life if I really believed and lived it out?
- ◆ How should it influence:
 - 1) My relationship with God
 - 2) My view of myself
 - 3) My relationship with others (family, friends, co-workers, neighbors)
 - 4) My work/calling
- ◆ What is the grace or promise of God that motivates me to do what God is calling me to do?