
An application to Biblical Mission

2Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Dan Turner

Introduction Tonight is a continuation of this morning's message. It will stay with the text and its basic outline. However, it will apply the Chapel to the text in more personal and practical ways. Our hope is that we will come away looking more like this text due to this talk.

Gospel Motivation

We will start with the first feature of biblical mission. This was called this morning gospel motivation. Let's start this feature by listening to a preacher.

"Because of the gospel's power, you can be completely free of all condemnation. Not mostly free; completely free.

Don't buy the lie that cultivating condemnation and wallowing in your shame is somehow pleasing to God, or that a constant, low-grade guilt will somehow promote holiness and spiritual maturity.

It's just the opposite! God is glorified when we believe with all our hearts that those who trust in Christ can never be condemned. It's only when we receive his free gift of grace and live in the good of total forgiveness that we're able to turn from old, sinful ways of living and walk in grace-motivated obedience."

- C.J. Mahaney, *The Cross Centered Life*, 39, 40

Or maybe one more quote from one of my favorite books *A Quest for Godliness*.

. . . whereas to the Puritans communion with God was a great thing, to evangelicals today it is a comparatively small thing. The Puritans were concerned about communion with God in a way that we are not. The measure of our unconcern is the little that we say about it. When Christians meet, they talk to each other about their Christian work and Christian interests, their Christian acquaintances, the state of the churches, and the problems of theology—but rarely of their daily experience of God. Modern Christian books and magazines contain much about Christian doctrine, Christian standards, problems of Christian conduct, techniques of Christian service—but little about the inner realities of fellowship with God. Our sermons contain much sound doctrine—but little relating to the converse between the soul and the Saviour. We do not spend much time, alone or together, in dwelling on the wonder of the fact that God and sinners have communion at all; no, we just take that for granted, and give our minds to other matters. Thus we make it plain that communion with God is a small thing to us. But how different were the Puritans! The whole aim of their 'practical and experimental' preaching and writing was to explore the reaches of the doctrine and practice of man's communion with God.

Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*, p. 215 (chapter 12).

I wanted you to hear these to underscore a most important issue related to biblical mission. I fear that for some this topic quickly goes out to obligation and what it is we are to do. Then it generally slides downhill into some moralistic pep talk that tries to motivate people to get out and preach the gospel.

Not so as we look at this passage. I do want to motivate us all into a ministry of ambassadorial lifestyle. But that happens as we sense both fear and love of Christ, not external need.

Here are some helps we have at the Chapel.

- Gospel-centered Life
 - When: Orientation meeting mid November
 - What: a way of helping us live daily in the goodness of the good news
 - Why: To see the gospel work in and then through our lives
- The Gospel Primer
 - Sign up sheet in back
 - Look for your copy in your box near future

Gospel Movement

Next let's notice more practically gospel movement. We saw this morning that the gospel moves in three directions, starting with a departure from self, moving next toward God in worship and then extending itself in love for others.

My first bit of application is simple. Use the summary of this gospel movement as a spiritual examination of sorts.

- The "from2for" Gospel Examination
 - God saves us by the gospel through his son
 - from ourselves – When we are not living in the goodness of the gospel we manifest self-reliant, self-focused, self-interested lives.
 - to himself – When we are not living in the goodness of the gospel we manifest little to no love for God. Prayer slows up and eventually stops. We are slow to attribute everything to Him. Worship of His glorious grace becomes rote and rotten.
 - for others – When we are not living in the goodness of the gospel we manifest little to no love for people. We do not talk with others about the riches found under Christ's rule. Our discipleship and evangelism dry up when our marvel over gospel goes weak.

Gospel Message

Biblical mission has a clear gospel message. Don't forget to utilize the free quality literature provided you in the lobby periodically throughout the year.

Also, to learn the gospel more deeply and thus love it more dearly we offer classes on the gospel. Don't think these types of classes are for the beginner. They are but they are much more than that. They are a time in which all of us can widen our awareness of the gospel and how pervasive it is to be in our daily lives.

- ✧ Free quality literature
- ✧ Gospel Transformation Class (Max Strange)
- ✧ Classes offered

Listen as I put before you some succinct ways of saying the gospel.

The basic elements in the message:

1. the prophecies have been fulfilled and the new age inaugurated by the coming of Christ;
2. he was born into the family of David;
3. he died according to the Scriptures, to deliver his people from this evil age;
4. he was buried, and raised again the third day, according to the Scriptures;
5. he is exalted at God's right hand as Son of God, Lord of living and dead;
6. he will come again, to judge the world and consummate his saving work."

- *F.F. Bruce*

The gospel is a story about Christ, God's and David's son, who died and was raised, and is established as Lord. This is the gospel in a nutshell.

- Martin Luther,

"What is the gospel itself but a merciful moderation, in which Christ's obedience is esteemed ours, and our sins laid upon him, wherein God, from being a judge, becomes our Father, pardoning our sins and accepting our obedience, though feeble and blemished? We are now brought to heaven under the covenant of grace by a way of love and mercy."

- Richard Sibbes, *The Bruised Reed*

The gospel is integrally tied to the Bible's story-line. Indeed, it is incomprehensible without understanding that story-line.

God is the sovereign, transcendent and personal God who has made the universe, including us, his image-bearers.

Our misery lies in our rebellion, our alienation from God, which, despite his forbearance, attracts his implacable wrath.

But God, precisely because love is of the very essence of his character, takes the initiative and prepared for the coming of his own Son by raising up a people who, by covenantal stipulations, temple worship, systems of sacrifice and of priesthood, by kings and by prophets, are taught something of what God is planning and what he expects.

In the fullness of time his Son comes and takes on human nature. He comes not, in the first instance, to judge but to save: he dies the death of his people, rises from the grave and, in returning to his heavenly Father, bequeaths the Holy Spirit as the down payment and guarantee of the ultimate gift he has secured for them—an eternity of bliss in the presence of God himself, in a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

The only alternative is to be shut out from the presence of this God forever, in the torments of hell. What men and women must do, before it is too late, is repent and trust Christ; the alternative is to disobey the gospel.

- D.A. Carson

“Here is what I understand the good news to be: the good news is that the one and only God, who is holy, made us in his image to know him. But we sinned and cut ourselves off from him. In his great love, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross, thus fulfilling the law himself and taking on himself the punishment for the sins of all those who would ever turn and trust in him. He rose again from the dead, showing that God accepted Christ’s sacrifice and that God’s wrath against us had been exhausted. He now calls us to repent of our sins and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. If we repent of our sins and trust in Christ, we are born again into a new life, an eternal life with God. Now that is good news.”

- Mark Dever from *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*

“The gospel is the word about Jesus Christ and what he did for us in order to restore us to a right relationship with God.”

- Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan*

“The gospel is the event (or the proclamation of that event) of Jesus Christ that begins with his incarnation and earthly life, and concludes with his death, resurrection and ascension to

the right hand of the Father. This historical event is interpreted by God as his preordained programme for the salvation of the world...

“It cannot be stressed too much that to confuse the gospel with certain important things that go hand in hand with it is to invite theological, hermeneutical and spiritual confusion. Such ingredients of preaching and teaching that we might want to link with the gospel would include the need for the gospel (sin and judgment), the means of receiving the benefits of the gospel (faith and repentance), the results or fruit of the gospel (regeneration, conversion, sanctification, glorification) and the results of rejecting it (wrath, judgment, hell). These, however we define and proclaim them, are not in themselves the gospel. If something is not what God did in and through the historical Jesus two thousand years ago, it is not the gospel. Thus Christians cannot ‘live the gospel,’ as they are often exhorted to do. They can only believe it, proclaim it and seek to live consistently with it. Only Jesus lived (and died) the gospel. It is a once-for-all finished and perfect event done for us by another.”

- Graeme Goldsworthy, *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006), 58-59.

“The heart of the gospel is the good news that Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead. What makes this good news is that Christ’s death accomplished a perfect righteousness before God and suffered a perfect condemnation from God, both of which are counted as ours through faith alone, so that we have eternal life with God in the new heavens and the new earth.” – Christianity Today, June 2009

“The gospel of Christ is the good news that at the cost of his Son’s life, God has done everything necessary to enthrall us with what will make us eternally and ever-increasingly happy, namely, himself.”

- John Piper, *The Passion of Jesus Christ*

“The Gospel is the news that Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, died for our sins and rose again, eternally triumphant over all his enemies, so that there is now no condemnation for those who believe, but only everlasting joy.”

- John Piper, *The Gospel in 6 Minutes*

The Greek word *euangelion*, frequently translated “gospel,” means “glad tidings,” or “good news,” and in Pauline usage it refers to the message of God’s saving work in Jesus Christ. Of the seventy-six instances of “gospel” in the NT, sixty are found in the Pauline corpus... *Euangelion* is for Paul the classic expression of the grace of God, responded to by faith.

- *IVP Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*

“Gospel...good news of salvation for hell-deserving sinners through the Person and work of Jesus Christ”.

- Milton Vincent

“Jesus God’s promised rescuer and ruler lived the life we could not live and died the death we should have died and rose again in triumphant vindication as the first fruits of the new creation to bring forgiven sinners together under his gracious rule”.

- Steve Timmis

The Gospel is the good news of our final and full enjoyment of the glory of God in the face of Christ. That this enjoyment had to be purchased for sinners at the cost of Christ’s life makes his glory shine all the more brightly. And that this enjoyment is a free and unmerited gift makes it shine more brightly still. But the price Jesus paid for the gift and the unmerited freedom of the gift are not the gift. The gift is Christ himself as the glorious image of God – seen and savored with everlasting joy.

- John Piper, God is the Gospel

Gospel Ministry

We will close tonight by talking about present and potential ministry. The commissional church is commissioned to tell the story. Let’s look at some ways we try to do this. (education and invitation)

- ✧ HBO
 - ✧ Home-based outreach
 - ✧ Flock-oriented
 - ✧ Training starts in November
- ✧ BBR
 - ✧ Building & Bridging Relationships
- ✧ EOE
 - ✧ Evening of Evangelism
 - ✧ 7pm-9pm at the Food Court in Mall
- ✧ To the Q
 - ✧ Common question about Christianity
 - ✧ 9:15-10:15am at the Chapel
- ✧ November series
 - ✧ Am & Pm

- ✧ BILD
 - ✧ Church-centered
 - ✧ Leadership development
 - ✧ Flock multiplication
 - ✧ Church planting (local/global)
- ✧ ISE
 - ✧ International Student Evang.
 - ✧ Research and dev. stage
- ✧ Short-term/long-term missions
- ✧ Missions Team member
- ✧ Missionary praying



Title

Text

Speaker

The Chapel Pulpit • <date> Sunday Morning

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Heading

➤ Heading

Heading

Conclusion