

## **THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE GOSPEL**

### **Session I**

#### **The Preservation of the Treasure of the Gospel**

##### ***I. The Doctrines of the Gospel***

###### **A. Gospel Truth Distinguished**

1. The Essence: The heart of the gospel is the message of the cross, the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4).
2. The Extent: The gospel includes all the truths regarding Man's Ruin and God's Remedy (Romans 2:16).
3. The Effect: The Gospel undergirds "the faith" (Romans 1:16).

###### **B. Gospel Truths Defined**

1. Regarding God; Theology
  - a. God's Holiness: awesome in moral perfection
  - b. God's Righteousness: always acting consistent with His holiness
  - c. God's Grace: showing favor, despite unworthiness
  - d. God's Love: expressing His desire for the good of all
  - e. God's Longsuffering: persisting in goodness
  - f. God's Power: unlimited in His capability to effect His will
  - g. God's Glory: displaying what uniquely expresses His person
2. Regarding Man; Anthropology
  - a. Man's Native Condition: Sin
    - (1) Sinner: constituted by God as condemned to death
    - (2) Fallen: naturally incapable of reaching the exalted purpose of God
    - (3) Ruined: naturally incapable of reclamation apart from divine intervention
    - (4) Depraved: naturally incapable of producing righteousness before God
    - (5) Sinful: naturally incapable of deliverance from a life characterized by sin
    - (6) Lost: naturally incapable of finding God
    - (7) Dead: naturally incapable of enjoying God
  - b. Man's Condemning Choices: Sins
    - (1) Guilty: facing the penalty of violating God's standard
    - (2) Sin: missing the mark of God's requirement
    - (3) Iniquity: perverting what God's intended good
    - (4) Lawlessness, Wickedness: exerting self-will against God's will
    - (5) Trespass: deviating from God's truth
    - (6) Transgression: violating God's limits
    - (7) Evil: affronting God's character
    - (8) Disobedience: insubordination to God's Word
    - (9) Rebellion, Enmity: animosity to God's character
3. Regarding Salvation: Soteriology
  - a. Salvation: man as endangered, delivered from the penalty he deserves
  - b. Redemption: man as enslaved, purchased from sin to glorify God
  - c. Justification: man as guilty, pronounced righteous before God
  - d. Forgiveness: man as indebted, having the debt paid

- e. Remission: man as banished, having his sins sent away instead
- f. Regeneration: man as dead, receiving life from God
- g. New Birth: man as darkened, brought into relationship with God
- h. Reconciliation: man as distant, brought into fellowship
- i. Propitiation: God as violated, now satisfied to meet with the sinner
- j. Expiation: God as dishonored, now receiving what He deserves
- k. Substitution: God as righteous, now fully recompensed
- l. Repentance: Man as astray, turning from sin to God
- m. Faith: Man as responsible, receiving God's message

## II. *The Deposit of the Gospel*

### A. **Gospel Truth Defended**

1. Teaching the Truths (1 Timothy 3:15)
  - a. Restating Foundational Truths
  - b. Responding to Faulty Teaching
    - (1) Repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ are inseparable (Acts 20:21).
    - (2) Salvation is not a process, but is a work of God (Acts 16:31; Philippians 1:29).
    - (3) Faith is a response to God's revelation and includes a personal appropriation of the death of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4, 6; John 6:53, 54).
2. Praying for the Perishing (1 Timothy 2:1-7)
3. Supporting the Service (Philippians 4:14-19)
4. Reaching out to the Region (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

### B. **Gospel Truth Displayed**

1. Regular Gospel Meetings: in the Hall or a location where people are more likely to come.
2. Special Efforts: in the Hall, a location where people are more likely to come, or a new area..
3. Children's Work: in the Hall, a location where people are more likely to come, or a new area..
4. Developing gift and sending out workers

## III. *The Duty of the Gospel*

### A. **Gospel Truth Demonstrated**

1. A life consistent with the gospel (Philippians 1:27), not hindering others from coming to Christ.
2. A life commending the gospel (Titus 2:10; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12), drawing others to Christ.

### B. **Gospel Truth Declared**

1. Crucial to the assembly (Philippians 2:15)
2. Crucial to the lost (1 Corinthians 9:22)

(Tear off section for Questions)

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## **THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE GOSPEL**

### **Session 2:**

### **The Presentation of the Truths of the Gospel**

#### **I. *One to One Witnessing***

##### **A. *The Model of Soul Winning***

1. Finding the Opening - Connecting for Confidence
2. Fielding the Objections - Conviction of Conscience
3. Following the Objective - Confession of Christ

##### **B. *The Means of Soul Winning***

1. Casual Contacts: normal, Christian conversation; tracts, calendars, pens, pencils, mirrors
2. Courtesy Contacts: showing normal Christian kindness and concern to neighbors, coworkers, and clients
3. Cultivated Contacts: discussions, Bible studies at work, with neighbors, recommended readings
4. Concerned Contacts: emphasizing need, explaining the value of the Cross, entrusting salvation to the Spirit

#### **II. *Public Preaching***

##### **A. *The Significance of Preaching***

1. Speaking: 1 Thessalonians 2:2; Acts 11:20a, express or speak
2. Evangelizing: Acts 11:20b; spread good tidings
3. Testify: Acts 20:24; earnestly, thoroughly bear witness
4. Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 1:21; authoritatively announce, herald, make known

##### **B. *The Samples of Preaching***

1. The Locations
  - a. Peter at Pentecost in a house (Acts 2)
  - b. Stephen at Martyrdom in the council (Acts 7)
  - c. Paul in Antioch of Pisidia in the synagogue (Acts 13)
  - d. Paul in Athens on Mars' Hill (Acts 17)
2. The Lessons
  - a. Relevant to the listeners' understanding
  - b. Relevant to the listeners' needs

##### **C. *The Service of Preaching***

1. The Responsibility of Proclamation
  - a. What it is not: an isolated event, an act, a self-promotion, a sales presentation
  - b. What it is: speaking for God, as God would, what God would say
2. The Responsibility of Preparation
  - a. Prayer
  - b. Focus on Individuals
  - c. Focus on relevant truths
  - d. Arrange thoughts reasonably
3. The Responsibility of Preaching
  - a. Pitfalls in Experience
    - (1) Lack of sincerity

- (2) Lack of variety
- (3) Lack of clarity
- b. Pitfalls in Emphasis
  - (1) Failure to emphasize need
  - (2) Misuse of illustrations
  - (3) Wrong impressions about the Cross
  - (4) Subjective experience highlighted
  - (5) Faith as the focus
- 4. The Responsibility of Presentation
  - a. Man's Ruin
  - b. God's Righteousness
  - c. God's Remedy
  - d. Man's Responsibility

(Tear off section for Questions)

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