

God-The Ultimate Humanitarian

Chapter 14: A Humanitarian by Giving Us the Gospel

Which is easiest?

1. Having two huge bags of Lego building blocks in front of you and having to reproduce the Las Vegas strip all by yourself?
2. Recreating the Las Vegas strip with the pattern laid out in front of you and someone there to help you?
3. Having someone build the Las Vegas strip for you and giving it to you?

God gives us the Gospel as very good news. The Gospel is not:

1. You have to figure out your salvation for yourself.
2. That you have someone to help you work through your own salvation.

The Gospel IS the Good News that Jesus has already completed every last thing that is necessary for you to be fully forgiven and have the gift of eternal life.

The Gospel IS the Good News that he gives that to you freely without you doing anything. There is nothing we add to this plan of salvation.

The Gospel IS the Good News that Jesus did this out of love for you and not because there is anything inside of you that earned it or deserved it.

This good news of Jesus is only found in God's Word. As we look today at the Gospel, we will see what an important part it is in our spiritual and daily.

What did you learn from chapter 14.....

1. The word gospel means "good news." Why is it appropriate to call it good news?
This message of Jesus takes care of our greatest needs... the guilt we feel and our questions about what happens after this life. It shows us what Jesus has done which saves us.
2. The Gospel isn't just good news, it is the powerful and living Word of God.
? Did Lazarus have the power to obey Jesus command to rise from the dead? Why or why not? **No, he was dead. We know the dead do not have any power to do anything**
? How did he rise? **By the power of the Word which was the power of God, which Jesus used.**
? Do people who are dead in sin have the power to come to faith? Why or why not? **No. People who are dead in sin cannot spiritually choose to do anything for themselves any more than a dead person can decide to get up and move**
? How do they come to faith? **God works through the Word to bring people to faith in him**

3. What does the Holy Spirit use the gospel to do?

✦ 2 Thessalonians 2:14. He **called** you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Calls us to faith

✦ Romans 10:17. Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Builds us in the faith

✦ Romans 1:16. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the **salvation of everyone** who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Saves us with what Jesus has done for us

4. Is there any other way that the Bible tells us that people can come to faith?

No, the Bible tells us the only way that people can come to faith is through the Gospel in Word and Sacraments

5. What are some ways that the devil leads us (people) to believe that we (they) can be saved apart from the Gospel? **We can have a religious experience, live a good life, earn it through action, pay for it with big gifts, choice for God, pray our way to heaven**
The world tries to tell us that there is a way apart from the way that God tells us---- The Gospel in Word and Sacraments.

6. Why is mission work so important? (reaching out to the unchurched or those seeking the truth with God's Word) **This is the time that we can share the powerful Word with others, we have the opportunities to do that**

7. Why is it important that I keep hearing the gospel regularly?

✦ 1 Thessalonians 2:13. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is **at work in you who believe.**

The Gospel works faith in us

✦ 2 Peter 3:18. But **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

We grow in our own faith and knowledge of God. We mature and grow in faith .

8. What great privilege does God give to believers in Christ?

✦ Mark 16:15. He said to them, **"Go into all the world and preach** the good news to all creation.

✦ Acts 1:8. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

✦ 2 Corinthians 5:19-20. God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

We are carriers and sharers of the Word of God

9. As we share the gospel with others, what comfort do we have?

✦ Matthew 28:18-20. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

He with us....

✦ Isaiah 55:10-11. ¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹**so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**

My Word will do what it is supposed to do

✦ Mark 4:26-29, ²⁶He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸**All by itself the soil produces grain**—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

It will produce results of believers

10. What are some reasons people might be hesitant to share the gospel with others?
Rejection, Fear, I don't know enough, Not spiritual enough, Hard conversations

11. From what you have learned, give answers that would enable people to overcome their hesitancy to share the gospel.

All you need is the simple Gospel of Christ crucified. There is no other formula than that.

Assignment: Please read Chapter 15 of *God-The Ultimate Humanitarian*