

**2 Different Ways We View the Gospel** - There are **two ways** that we tend to view the Gospel's impact on our everyday lives:

- 1) We view the Gospel (and God) as **distant** and **operating in the background** of the everyday, *real* stuff that happens in life.
- 2) We view the Gospel (and God) as **present** and **operating among us during all of life**.

## **DOORWAY OR PATHWAY?**

The Gospel is a **doorway** by which we enter the Kingdom of heaven. Through the Gospel we are made right with God, become His children of God, and receive the presence of His Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

The Gospel is a **pathway** by which we must continually walk as pilgrims on our journey through this life and onto the next one. We don't graduate from the Gospel. In other words, we never move away from needing the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ. The Gospel saves us, transforms us, and keeps us. We don't enter by grace and continue by works. The whole of the Christian life is lived out in the power of God's marvelous grace.

**Small Group Discussion:** *When you think of the Gospel do you tend to think the gospel is more of a doorway or a pathway? How do you see this view of the Gospel shaping your life?*

In your small groups walk through these passages together. **Underline** how the passage shows the Gospel as a doorway into the family of God. **Circle** how the passage shows the Gospel as a pathway as we live the Christian life.

**Colossians 2:6-7** - <sup>6</sup>Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

**Titus 2:11-12** - <sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

**Galatians 3:1-5** - *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup>Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup>Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? <sup>5</sup>Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—*

**Galatians 2:11-14** - <sup>11</sup>But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup>For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. <sup>13</sup>And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup>But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the Gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

**Colossians 3:3-5** - <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup>Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**Galatians 2:20** - <sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Small Group Discussion:** *Using the case study we started with, how could you remind your friend of the Gospel as a pathway and a doorway in their situation? Why is it important for them to be reminded of these realities of the gospel?*

## WHY DO WE NEED THE GOSPEL MOMENT BY MOMENT?

→ **We are easily seduced**...prone to wander.

**Colossians 1:21-23** - <sup>21</sup>And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup>**if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel that you heard**, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

→ **We are self-reliant people**...prone to withdraw to our own resources.

**John 15:4-5** - <sup>4</sup>**Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing.**

→ **We are forgetful people**...prone to let the Gospel slip from our minds.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-2** - **Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you**, which you received, **in which you stand**, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are **being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

→ **We are a targeted people**...pursued by an enemy.

**1 Peter 5:8-11** - Be sober-minded; be watchful. **Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.** <sup>9</sup>Resist him, **firm in your faith**, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, **will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.** <sup>11</sup>To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Small Group Discussion:** How do you see these tendencies showing up in the case study? How would you address them?

**Large Group Discussion:** What are 2-3 ways you'd help your friend live in light of the Gospel?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION: Choose the best answer for each question.

**Q:** When I look at my everyday life, I functionally treat the Gospel as:

- a) *Being in the background and not very present in my everyday life and experience with God.*
- b) *An essential part of my everyday life because I need it in every moment.*

**Q:** I tend to view the Gospel as a:

- Doorway.*
- Doorway and pathway; I have a balanced view*
- Pathway*
- I don't think much about the gospel in general.*

**Q:** I struggle most with (rank the struggles from least to greatest):

- Relying on myself rather than God*
- Letting the Gospel slip from my mind when I'm busy with life or struggles*
- Following the seductions of the world*
- Forgetting that I'm a target of the world, my flesh, and the devil.*

**Q:** List 2-3 ways you will implement what you've learned during today's seminar:

Write out a prayer to God confessing (as needed) your lack of reliance on the gospel moment-to-moment, expressing your desire to live in-line with the Gospel, and for His Spirit's moment-by-moment presence to help you believe the Gospel. **Pray this prayer aloud or with a friend sometime this week.**