

## The One Thing Wrap Up: As You Go

*“Calling all people to receive, demonstrate, and declare*

*God’s transforming grace through Jesus Christ.”*

### **RECEIVE** (Gospel Truth)

There are many false gospels out there and there are lots of ways we can add or subtract from the Gospel and not even know it.

To receive the gospel, we have to make sure we understand it and actually put our faith in it and submit our heart and mind to it.

What are aspects of the gospel that we might leave out or add?

Leave out: The Bad news, repentance, sanctification, you are not your own.

Add: Religious or ritual practices, Works, heritage or status, signs, faith in anything but the blood.

If we receive a man centered gospel: “Jesus died for you and if you accept him as your savior you will go to heaven and He will make your life better.” Is there any lies in there?

Not really, but if understand it from a selfish perspective, this is about me, and blessing me, and you leave out switching allegiance and giving up your life part, you might not actually be born again. The gospel includes “take up your cross, and follow me” and the “you cannot serve two masters” and “if you take your hand to the plow, and look back, your are not worthy of me”. If we do not understand what we signed up for, we will complain and pray for God to fix everything but not to fix us.

Scariest verses in the Bible could be Matt 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ <sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

So knowing, accepting, and following the actual Gospel is critical to everything that follows.

**Then we talked about the importance of knowing and being able to share your testimony.**

How did God bring you to trusting in Jesus alone? And what has he been teaching you today. And we may have opportunities to share just a thought or a whole life story.

What are some things we might be able to share in just a few moments with someone?

Something God did in your life: "Jesus has really helped me not to get angry with my kids as I think about the way He loves me and shows me grace every day."

How can we prepare to do that?

What might we share if we get to engage someone for an hour?

What God has done in your life! This time the complete Gospel and your sanctification.

How can we prepare to do that?

In each case, and everything in between, we first need to be experiencing something to share. You experienced being born again. Even if you don't know what moment of rebirth in a process God brought you through, at some point you had that realization that you belonged to Christ, and you were following him from your heart.

In the same way, God has been growing you up in faith. You are not a baby believer anymore. How has God done that over the years? How has He done that today?

This is your story to tell. With a bit of preparation and prayer, you will be ready to give a reason for your hope,

as **1 Peter 3:15** says "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"

So, once we have understood and received the Gospel, we will demonstrate it. What comes after receiving? Sanctification!

**John 17:15** My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

**Philippians 1: 6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**Ephesians 2:8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

This is what it means to **demonstrate** the **gospel change** God has brought in your life. As He grows us up daily to be more like Jesus we demonstrate the transforming power of the good news we have received.

**We talked about a changed heart.** What are some ways our heart has changed?

- Pride to Humility
- Idolatry to God Worship
- Bitterness to Forgiveness and Kindness
- The fruit of the flesh for the fruit of the Spirit

### **A Changed Priority**

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

- From serving self to serving God
- From protecting me and mine, to trusting Him to serve others

The bottom line is to demonstrate God’s transforming power, in other words, have it be visible to others, you have to first walk in that transforming power. Then, our testimony is of God’s work in our hearts. Anyone can talk about good fortune or success in their life, but we get to experience the fruit and power of the Spirit to transform us. That then is our testimony of the truth of the Word of God.

### **Which is what we can now declare. The power of God to change a life!**

We spent the last five weeks working through

- Tools for sharing the Gospel
- Seeing and praying for those God has already placed in our lives, our “8-15”
- Seeing how we can serve in ways that promote the Gospel
- Considering the gospel in the long term
- Understanding other religions and belief systems so we know how to interact with those caught in them.

So where do we go from here? How do we use this as a foundation to continue to grow individually in our preparation for the opportunities God puts in our path? How to continue to grow together as a body, looking to the Lord for ways to touch the lost in our community and beyond?

**Pray:** What are specific ways we can pray?

- For a growing understanding of the Gospel and the Christian life
- For faith, wisdom, and strength to walk in the power of the Spirit, experiencing the fruit of the Spirit and the transforming daily grace in the moments of your day.
- For the “8-15” people God has placed in your life and for the readiness to see and use the opportunities He brings each day.
- Pray with others for the personal and corporate opportunities to grow in and share the Gospel.
- Give thanks for His provision of everything we need and that we don’t obey Him in our own strength.
- Give thanks that He will lead you according to His will and plan.

**Prepare:** What are some of the ways we can prepare?

- Continue to learn the gospel truth.
- Have a growing library of tools and resources to draw from.
- Be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you.
- Whatever you need to be ready where you are not ready.

**Plan:**

- Choose corporate activities.
- Plan personal invitations and interactions.
- Plan what you might say in specific situations.
- Put it on your calendar.

**Participate:** Show up, God will help you!

**Discussion Questions**

1. What have you done through this class to be more prepared to touch others with the Gospel?
2. What roadblocks to demonstrating God’s transforming grace do you experience? How can we grow in overcoming those hinderances?
3. What challenges do you see to continuing to grow in declaring God’s transforming grace? How can we grow in overcoming those challenges?