

## Stir Up the Gospel Pt. 6

### II Peter 1:12-15 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, August 23, 2023 The Gospel Song

Remind—3x in these verses, then again 3:1-2 **I. What you have been given is precious and is under attack.** v. 12 talking about eternal life in eternal kingdom with THE KING **A. The gospel is sufficient. Stay focused there.** <sup>12</sup>Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, specifically vv. 2-11, talking about common body of truth given; Look to God through Christ and focus on gospel given you! **B. The gospel given has been lived. Live it now!** and have been established in the truth which is present with you. Peter saying they HAVE lived it and must continue to work out implications of gospel in daily, ordinary life **I. Can you articulate the gospel?** Christ at center Jn. 14:6, Eph. 4:21 **2. Are you conscious of how that gospel lives/effects each moment of each day in your life?** **Tripp Quest for More—big kingdom lived in same place as little kingdom lives** **3. Can you identify other gospels that daily threaten the gospel calling for you to defend and proclaim the gospel to yourself and others?** (different priorities than the gospel); remember, false teaching only dangerous b/c you WANT it. It feeds some need/desire causing you to drift away from living the words you SAY you believe to follow similar teaching that gives you what you value more than God's provision through Christ to bring glory to Himself through your building His kingdom instead of yours (check your loves/fears—security, affirmation, fulfillment, peace, ME time, comfort, entertainment, family—if don't love God more, will drift; Peter reinforcing gospel already given speaks of power of gospel; Live gospel NOW! **II. Time is short.** vv. 13-14 <sup>13</sup> I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, <sup>14</sup> knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. Death forces expectations, values to surface in ways normal life often doesn't; as look at end of my life approaching, THIS is RIGHT thing to do to fulfill calling to shepherd souls to the end; summarize Peter's hope. What would result from heeding these reminders? stir you up—arouse from sleep, or waken courage, desire, loyalty; influence to pay attention/hold course by giving eternal perspective—how? by keeping gospel and virtuous life required to enter heaven in front of them; vv. 5-11; not virtue alone, but virtue resulting from gospel—Schreiner though know gospel, in a sense, must relearn everyday p. 309; **III. Maintain gospel-driven life for the rest of your life.** v. 15 <sup>15</sup> And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind. what is implied/included in being able to "call these things to mind"? when you think of me/my calling/all energy/effort you see coming from me, want you to hear, "LIVE in line w gospel," not only now, but ALL THE TIME in future; will, emotions, goals, priorities all responding to facts of gospel, living looking ahead to One who promised, and who enables now to glorify Him; MUST fulfill gospel calling all way to end even if you meet with "small success and great hardship" ... "The nearer our journey's end be, the faster should we run, according to our strength, in serving Christ, and doing good to souls: for when death is near the best will think the great part of their business undone." Nisbet, p. 234 stir up gospel What does it take to stir people in general? all our likes that we try to stir others up to NOT center What is involved/included if you would stir people by the gospel? **1. Be stirred yourself**--First must isolate the essence of gospel 1. Made for relationship for communion w God—peace, love, purpose all coming from God--foundation from which live and work 2. broken by finding life/love somewhere else; rebel from Creator 3. Salvation/deliverance ONLY possible from God we have defied 4. God DID impossible—not just ACT, but feelings—b/c of His great love 5. We respond w repentance and faith—receive relationship AND provision for living for glory of God; What feelings, emotions, identification do you have at the pieces of the gospel? I gave some of MY gospel associations; not only what ones have you HAD, but what associations are you MAKING for those around you NOW; showing hunger/drive to know Him, do His will—NOT focused on your sufficiency, but wanting to be more loving God, then doing His will—change under/by HIM what oozes from you even while live/battle world/flesh/devil right where are—faithful; Peter/Paul/apostles LIVED gospel they gave I Cor. 15:1-4; Jude 5 is parallel to this passage; afraid would forget most basic truths; what does it mean to forget gospel—not in mental sense, but volitionally/practically; what would show that I am not "remembering" the gospel as I live my daily life? **1. Live condemned**--died for sins, but live consumed by guilt so insecure, trying to prove instead of confessing sins and then getting up & doing next thing pleasing to God; **2. Live naturally**--know saved to be holy, but not concerned about being holy in daily life; not concerned about God's mission of proclaiming His glorious nature and work of salvation through you **3. Live independently**—w own resources, where comfortable--When word/prayer/fellowship of saints aren't source of life/maintenance--Jn. 14:26 takes Holy Spirit to bring truth to mind—but Word of God is what Spirit brings to mind; Lord's Supper helps remind; Moo notes that preaching needs to be intellectually stimulating, up-to-date, not stale with repeating same things, "but without constant reiteration of basic biblical truth about God's redemptive acts for us, it will produce Christians with no foundation and no hope for the future." P. 67; **2. Be a conduit;** Recognize YOU are not the center, the goal—you are a conduit; not merely Peter as apostle to remind, but you also were called to stir others with an eternal gospel (Channels Only); must care about people—Nisbet says that we show zeal for Christ's glory "in studying to propagate His truth for the good of souls." P. 235 every Christian ought to leave behind them "the seeds of saving knowledge" Nisbet, p. 235 words and life backing those words; means that your study of God's Word, living the gospel struggle not merely for where YOU need, but must study people in light of gospel w regard to depths of individual differences so can apply the SAME gospel to depths of where their foundation out of line; if SAME gospel for all, must find bridge from what they hear, think they need, to where gospel is gospel to them; if they don't see their own foundation issues, won't shift, forcing you to give them another gospel (what they think they need)—therefore, must lovingly expose wrong foundations as show beauty of God and gospel—includes wading through where others DON'T see it as kindness; Powlison—gospel "Ministry 'unbalances' truth for the sake of relevance; theology 'rebalances' truth for the sake of comprehensiveness." "The whole truth is as wide as human experience, as deep as the human heart, and as unfathomable as the God who weighs all things and intervenes in all things." Sanctification, pp. 33-34 True gospel living involves remembering the gospel, clarifying it, building character as you

think through its implications for daily life and seek to live it, and then giving and cultivating this same gospel in the lives of those God has placed in your life. gospel grows in you, spreads to them; failure to do this by pulling back and stop wrestling/engaging self or with others thinking you/they will never change, shows no honor to God's eternal gospel and His great name and limits what you see of Him; what crosses your mind as you contemplate this? Cindy--as I looked over slides and notes from last week, I thought of things from CCEF's Counseling in the Local Church. It was good to look over that material. You might find the Conversational Goals Handout interesting. I also looked at the section on unsought counsel, you each "win" by leaving them alone. And create conflict or "lose" by going after them. Tim Lane talks about how we deal with conflict either naturally (as a winner, pleaser or avoider) or with the gospel and also being good at forgiving. (in a nutshell) Moo records historian Simon Schama in book *Landscape and Memory* argued that our appreciation of landscape and nature is product as much of memory we bring to scene as it is of the scene itself; our appreciation of God & gospel is product as much of memory we bring to scene as it is of the scene itself; takes while to pick through these pieces (which are God's intent/goals/life which are NOT)—can't give gospel w/o dealing w some of these pieces—i.e. Conversational/Group Goals from CCEF handout; are you convinced that the essentials of biblical gospel contain all that is needed to expose what is not true gospel, to help you live for heaven's goals, to deal w mess of bringing change in your life/other's lives?—true biblical change is slow (we often want to change to ideas, but they are twisted/embedded in other ideas in our heads/their heads)—I pray I change, but it won't be as fast as you want—I pray you change, but it won't be as fast as I want/OR you want—but reminding self/others of pure gospel realities that we think we already know—taking it apart and observing even if seems tedious—process becomes way that God keeps eyes on Him, love for Him develops, faithfulness to His mission OR just (win, please, avoid when comes to conflict) instead of love souls, teach roles, make disciples--I beg you to be curious about not just what you hear, but well they come from—NOT because I'm always right, but because framing and solving the problem yourself will leave you "leaning on your own understanding" instead of acting from where you are, but seeking to grow beyond—goal not merely to be kind, loving, nice, understand, or even just learn from me or someone else that you are forced to listen to/want to listen to, but higher/deeper—to God Himself--so let the word dwell in you richly—Col. 3:16, it is living, imperishable I Pet 1:23-2:2; let essentials of gospel continually guide you (take apart your feelings, logic, goals); this was Peter's intent as he reminded them; not intimidated by false teacher's skepticism w this eternal word of God and the validity of those commissioned by Christ to give it; and b/r zeroing in on dangerous character resulting from false teacher's teaching, Peter finishes chapter with certainty of God's Word—ask God to scrape away what clouds that certain and powerful Word—know, worship, and submit to the gospel

<sup>1</sup> **Corinthians 15:1-4** Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

**Ephesians 4:21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,