

Stir Up the Gospel Pt. 7

II Peter 1:12-15 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, August 30, 2023 **The Compassion Hymn**

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.** ¹²Therefore, 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. must continue to work out implications of gospel in daily, ordinary life **1. 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 ¹³ I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ 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; Peter's hope to 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 ¹⁵ And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be 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" stir up gospel What is involved/included if you would stir people by the gospel? **1. Be stirred yourself**--First must isolate the essence of gospel **I.** Made for relationship for communion w God—Loved, Belong, Live Together--peace, love, purpose all coming from God--foundation from which live and work 2. Fellowship with God broken by finding life/love somewhere else; Rebel from Creator, separated, find own identity & purpose, war w God and others seeking own identity/purpose 3. Salvation/deliverance ONLY possible from God we have defied 4. God DID impossible—provided just means of reconciliation for rebel creation; 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; do you have hunger/drive in these areas? 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 "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? Remember ^{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—Cindy--as I looked over slides and notes from last week, I thought of things from CCEF's Counseling in the Local Church. You might find the Conversational Goals Handout interesting. **ie. 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—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; (we often want to change to ideas, but they are twisted/embedded in other ideas in our heads/their heads—ie. You are forgiven, you are loved, you have a purpose, God loves you—you were made for His glory) reminding self/others of pure gospel realities that we think we already know is central part of gospel relationships & opportunity to build stronger gospel-centered relationships; what calls us to remember these things? Fellowship with God and broken fellowship with others;** Often, conflict reveals true desires—not presence, but goals in conflict; Cindy--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), **conflict arises for many reasons, but don't just seek to win, please, avoid); see as opportunity to minister gospel to own heart, then to other person; How does this change our focus when working on relationships with others and especially growth among believers together? —taking it apart and observing even if seems tedious—process becomes way that God trains us to keep our eyes on Him, love for Him develops, faithfulness to His mission;** 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

Deuteronomy 8:11–14 “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; ¹² otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived *in them*, ¹³ and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Deuteronomy 31:19–20 “Now therefore, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the sons of Israel; put it on their lips, so that this song may be a witness for Me against the sons of Israel. ²⁰ “For when I bring them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and are satisfied and become prosperous, then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and spurn Me and break My covenant.

Nehemiah 9:24–26 “So their sons entered and possessed the land. And You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, And You gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, To do with them as they desired. ²⁵ “They captured fortified cities and a fertile land. They took possession of houses full of every good thing, Hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves, Fruit trees in abundance. So they ate, were filled and grew fat, And reveled in Your great goodness. ²⁶ “But they became disobedient and rebelled against You, And cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets who had admonished them So that they might return to You, And they committed great blasphemies.

Proverbs 30:7–9 Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: ⁸ Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, ⁹ That I not be full and deny *You* and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

Jeremiah 9:23–24 Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.

Hosea 13:1–6 When Ephraim spoke, *there was* trembling. He exalted himself in Israel, But through Baal he did wrong and died. ² And now they sin more and more, And make for themselves molten images, Idols skillfully made from their silver, All of them the work of craftsmen. They say of them, “Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!” ³ Therefore they will be like the morning cloud And like dew which soon disappears, Like chaff which is blown away from the threshing floor And like smoke from a chimney. ⁴ Yet I *have been* the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me. ⁵ I cared for you in the wilderness, In the land of drought. ⁶ As *they had* their pasture, they became satisfied, And being satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore they forgot Me.