

A BIBLE STUDY ON

THE LIFE OF A LABORER



**“THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL
BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW...”**



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Campus Outreach Augusta
624 Greene Street
Augusta, GA 30904

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Written by Austin Shadoan.
Cover design by Steven Zhang.

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The Life of a Laborer

Week 1: Lives in the Security of God's Love	1
Week 2: Aims for Christ-likeness in All Things	5
Week 3: Builds Life on the Authority of God's Word	11
Week 4: Orders Life Around Kingdom Purposes	18
Week 5: Relates Properly to All Believers and the Local Church	24
Week 6: Evangelizes as a Lifestyle	30
Week 7: Reproduces Third Generation Disciples	36
Week 8: Steps out in Faith and Dependence	41





Lives in Security of God's Love

"God treated Christ as we deserved to be treated so that He might treat us as Christ deserved to be treated." - Jerry Bridges, Gospel for Real Life

One of the most important things we must wrestle with is fighting to understand how God sees us as Christians. Everything we do as laborers is motivated by the love of God displayed to us through the gospel. If we fail to understand this, we are in danger of attempting to earn God's love by "becoming the best laborer" which ultimately displeases God. We must understand that because of Christ's perfect life, substitutionary death, and victorious resurrection, our position as God's children is secure. This is what gets a laborer going! When we see God's love for us and understand our position in Christ, we are then ready to labor! In summary, we don't labor *TO BE* loved by God, but *BECAUSE WE ARE* loved by God!

FIRST THOUGHTS

Write down how you think God ought to treat you and feel about you based on *your own works alone*.

STUDY

Read Ephesians 2:1-3

What are words that are used to describe us?

If Ephesians 2 stopped at verse 3, how would God have to view us?

What benefits could come from reflecting on our position before Christ?



Read Ephesians 2:4-10

According to v. 4 what caused God to make us alive together with Christ?

What are some of the ways our position is described in v. 5-8?

Compare and contrast the list of words you wrote describing our lives in v. 1-3 with the list above. How does looking at these lists make your view of God's love greater?

"Some of us doubt God and we want proof that He actually loves us. Well look no further. The death of Jesus is the greatest display of love in the history of the universe. No mother's love could compare to this love. No romantic love could compare to this love. Jesus' love for sinners is greater than we could ever imagine." - Trip Lee, The Good Life

Romans 5:8 tells us that "God demonstrates His own love for us in this, that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." If it is true that God loved us while we were still sinners, how much more assured should we be that God loves us upon becoming His child in Christ? In order to understand this, let's look at God's love for His own Son.

Read the following verses and note how God (the Father) views Jesus.

John 3:35

John 17:22-26

Mark 1:9-10

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. What do we become through Christ? What do you think that means?



It is clear that God loves His Son. It is also clear that through His Son we are made righteous like His Son, enabling us to have a relationship with Him that is secure. Understanding that we are IN Christ ought to make us overwhelmingly confident that God loves us just as He loves His Son. We do not become Christ, but we certainly become loved by the Father like Christ.

REFLECT

What most often causes you to doubt God's love for you?

Why do you think it's important that we understand God's love for us as the foundation for being a laborer?

DISCUSS

1. What practices do you have in place or want to put in place in order to help you be reminded of God's love for you in Christ?
2. There is a big difference between knowing something and believing something. Why do you think it is so hard to believe that God loves you?
3. Share anything you would like from the two reflection questions.

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 2:4-5

WATCH/LISTEN

Scan the QR code to hear a sermon by Ray Ortlund to go a little deeper!





Sermon Notes - Ray Ortlund (Romans 8)



Aims for Christ-likeness in All Things

“Christlikeness is possible, but not by merely working with Jesus or simply imitating His example. Only by knowing our position in Jesus can we begin to live like Jesus.”
Kevin Deyoung, “The Hole in Our Holiness”

Once we begin to understand God’s love for us in the gospel, it frees us to be able to pursue holiness or Christlikeness. As we learned last week, we *already* possess the righteousness of Christ positionally. However, practically we will still experience the effects of sin that dwells in our hearts and in the world around us. To be a Christian and not pursue becoming like Christ is an oxymoron. In fact, the reason that Christ died for us was not simply to save us from something (sin) but to save us for something (holiness). This week, we will look at the motivation for pursuing Christlikeness, what God gives us to pursue it, and what we ought to do when we inevitably fall short.

FIRST THOUGHTS

Since becoming a Christian, what have been some of the ways your life has changed most clearly? What are the hardest commands to obey?

STUDY

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

According to these verses, what was the reason that Christ died for us?

What does Paul say controls or compels Him? What do you think this means in your own words?

Read the verses leading up to and following v. 14-15. What reasons might Paul have for knowing he is loved by Christ and for loving Christ?



Read John 14:12-24

According to Jesus, is it possible to believe in and love Christ and not obey Him? Why or why not?

What is the sign that someone truly loves Jesus according to these verses? List the verses that display this.

Although love is the primary motivation for obedience. It is not the only motivation to keep His commandments and aim for Christlikeness. Read the following verses and write why you think we ought to obey God accordingly.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Deuteronomy 12:28

Ephesians 5:2

2 Peter 1:10

Romans 12:1

John 15:10-11

Now that we have learned the motivation for “aiming for Christlikeness”, we need to understand how we can actually make any ground in this massive gap between who we are and who Christ is. This sounds impossible. And in fact, on this side of heaven it is. However, God did not leave us unable to figure it out ourselves and unequipped to grow in holiness. He actually has given us exactly what we need! In this section we will see how God has given us more than adequate help in pursuing holiness!



Read Romans 8:5-13

What does it mean to “live according to the flesh” or “set the mind on the things of the flesh”?

According to v. 7-8, what is impossible to do as an unbeliever?

What does the believer have that the unbeliever doesn't which makes him be able to deny sin and live righteously?

Continue reading through v. 17. What things does the Spirit do for us?

Paul describes the Spirit as “dwelling” within us. Why do you think this is important and how is this different from Him just coming alongside of us?

“We have to learn that we are dependent upon the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to attain any degree of holiness. Then, as we look to Him, we will see Him working in us - revealing our sin, creating a desire for holiness, and giving us the strength to respond to Him in obedience.” - Jerry Bridges, “The Pursuit of Holiness”

So we have seen that Christ's love gives us the *motivation* to pursue holiness and the Holy Spirit gives us the *ability* to pursue holiness. However, God's standard for obedience is perfection. We are bound to fall short of this on a daily basis. What do we do when we feel like we have failed God more than we have pleased Him? Let's look at God's Word. We are likely to be in good company!

Read Romans 7:14-25

Describe Paul's dilemma in this passage in your own words.



What is Paul's conclusion for why he still is struggling with sin? What does this mean for us?

What do v. 15 and v. 20 reveal about Paul's attitude toward sin?

Read Psalm 51

This psalm is a prayer of repentance written by King David. What does repentance mean (look up definitions if need be)?

How would you describe David's view of his sin? Where do you get this from the Scripture?

Write down a list of action verbs listed in this Psalm. Who is the recipient of these actions and who is the doer of these actions?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

What principle does this passage teach us in regards to us falling into sin?

Although we are aiming at Christlikeness, we are bound to fall short. Thankfully, God knows this. He does not require that we be perfect, but rather that we trust in Christ's perfection on our behalf. He does not desire mere servitude which leads to obedience. God wants our hearts. He desires that we love to obey Him and hate to disobey Him. So let us pursue Christlikeness together, in the power of the Holy Spirit, motivated by His love for us!



“Why do we imagine God to be so unmoved by our heartfelt attempts at obedience? He is, after all, our heavenly Father... There is no righteousness that makes us right with God except the righteousness of Christ. But for those who have been made right with God by grace alone through faith alone and therefore have been adopted into God's family, many of our righteous deeds are not only not filthy in God's eyes, they are exceedingly sweet, precious, and pleasing to Him.”

- Kevin DeYoung, “The Hole in Our Holiness”

REFLECT

How would you describe your current attitude toward sin? Toward obedience?

The title of this section is “Aims for Christlikeness in ALL Things”...What areas of your life do you feel that you are not aiming for Christlikeness?

DISCUSS

1. How does living in the security of God's love affect our pursuit of holiness?
2. Why should we pursue becoming like Christ if we know it is impossible to get there on this side of heaven?
3. Why is it necessary to have other believers in your life as you pursue holiness?

MEMORIZE

John 14:21

WATCH

Scan the QR code to hear a sermon by Ligon Duncan to go a little deeper!





Sermon Notes - Ligon Duncan (Colossians 1)



Builds Life on the Authority of God's Word

"It is in Scripture alone that we search for God's words to us. And we should, eventually, arrive at contentment with what we find there. The sufficiency of Scripture should encourage us to search through the Bible to try to find what God would have us think about a certain issue or do in a certain situation. Everything that God wants to tell all his people for all of time about that kind of situation will be found on the pages of the Bible."

- Wayne Grudem, "Christian Beliefs"

The Bible is the most copied, most sold, most influential, and most stolen (that's true) book in the history of the world. However, to the Christian, it is not just a book. It is the very Word of God and it has authority in the life of any follower of Christ. It is infallible (perfectly trustworthy) and is essential in the life of a laborer. In this section we will look at how Scripture affirms itself, how it continues to have influence and relevance today, and what a laborer ought to do with it.

FIRST THOUGHTS

What is your view of the Bible? Where does it come from? What are some of the most common reasons you have heard others decide not to read or believe the Bible?

STUDY

Read 1 Timothy 5:18

What are the two phrases according to this verse that come from "the Scripture"?

Look up the references to these two phrases and write them down.

Why might it be significant that one phrase is from the Old Testament and one is from the New Testament? What does it show us about Paul's view of the Old Testament?



Read 2 Peter 3:14-16

How are Paul's letters described in v. 16? What might this show us about reading and understanding the Bible?

What broader category are Paul's letters lumped into according to v. 16? What does this show us about Peter's view of Paul's writings?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

What adjective is used in front of the word "Scripture"? How is Scripture described in v. 16? Why might this be significant?

What is the Scripture profitable or useful for according to v. 16?

What is the purpose of the Scriptures according to v. 17?

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testament, are breathed out by God and are useful to equip us for every good work. These are the good works which you were created in Christ Jesus to do (Eph 2:10)! Therefore, if the Christian is to grow in their understanding of God and in their understanding of the good works He has called us to do, we need to get to know our Bibles and base our lives on it! Let's look at some of the ways God's Word can benefit the believer and how it is just as relevant in our lives now as it was in the time of Christ!

Read the following passages and write down the ways the Word is described and why they are significant.

Hebrews 4:12



Isaiah 40:8

Jeremiah 23:29

Read Matthew 4:1-11

According to this passage, what is more necessary for man to live than food?

How does Jesus respond each time to the three temptations from Satan?

In light of Jesus' response to temptation, think of a temptation that you have faced recently or currently face. Find a passage of Scripture that could help you combat it.

Read Psalm 119:9-11

How does the Psalmist say he can keep his way pure and keep from sin?

What do you think it means in v.11 to "hide, store up, or treasure" God's Word in our hearts?

Read Psalm 19:7-11

List the attributes that are given to the Word (law, testimony, etc.) and the results that come from knowing and reading it. Put the verse number next to each.

Attribute

Result



God's Word is not only relevant to our lives, but it is absolutely essential for us if we want to know God more deeply and fight sin in our lives. It is not just another book that sits on your shelf but in fact it is your very life! If this is true we must not simply read it when we feel like it, we must make it a daily habit (whether that means 5 minutes or 2 hours) to remind ourselves of its truth and apply it to our lives. But how are we to store up God's Word in our hearts like Psalm 119 said? And what do we do with it once it is in there? We look at that as we wrap up this section.

Read Psalm 1:1-3

What does the blessed man do with the law of the Lord (God's Word)?

Why do you think the blessed man "delights" in God's Word?

Do you feel this way about the Bible? Why or why not?

Read Ezra 7:10

What three things did Ezra set his heart to do with the law?

Why do you think the order of these three things might be significant?

Read James 1:21-25

What type of posture does a person have that receives the word of God? Why do you think this is mentioned?



What are we to do with the word of God according to v. 22?

Describe what v. 23-25 is saying in your own words.

"It is God's desire that His Word be lived out in the daily affairs of life, that the Word of God become flesh and blood and find expression in His people. His desire is that we be walking, living Bibles demonstrating the beauty and validity of the Scriptures in the home, the plant, the office, the school, the shipyard, the store, or wherever else we might live and work."
- Leroy Eims, "The Lost Art of Discipleship"

REFLECT

What are the most common reasons you give for not reading, studying, or listening to God's Word yourself?

Would you say that your life is currently "built" on the authority of God's Word? How could you continue to grow in this?

DISCUSS

1. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best), how would you rate your QUANTITY of time in God's Word and your QUALITY of time in God's Word recently? (Give a score for each)
2. What things keep us from seeking God's Word with "all our heart" (Psalm 119)?
3. Why is it important and necessary for us to build our life on God's Word?



MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 3:16-17

WATCH

Scan the QR code to hear a sermon by John Piper to go a little deeper!





Sermon Notes - John Piper (Psalm 19)



Orders Life Around Kingdom Purposes

"This is a poor withering life at the best, for we all fade as a leaf. Unless we purposely live with a view to the next world, we cannot make much out of our present existence...Be diligent today to do those works which perfect saints above and holy angels cannot do. You will soon be where you can no more give alms to the poor, nor instruct the ignorant, nor visit the fatherless and the widow. You shall have no opportunities for speaking to men about their souls, or winning them for Christ, when once this shadowy life has vanished away." - Charles Spurgeon

In the Milky Way galaxy, everything orbits around the sun. Why is this? Why doesn't the earth remain in the center and make the sun revolve around *it*? Simply put, everything orbits the sun because it is the largest mass with the greatest amount of gravitational pull. In the same way, when we think about our lives, our lives ought to revolve around how God wants us to live and not the other way around. He is the greatest power in the universe; therefore, He does not revolve His plans around ours, but rather we order our lives around Him.

FIRST THOUGHTS

How much time on a weekly basis do you give to knowing God and making Him known to others? Does this show Christ as a priority in your life?

STUDY

Read John 4:31-34

What does Jesus say is His food?

How does this passage give us perspective on how we ought to live?

Read John 8:27-30



What does Jesus “never do” according to v. 28?

What things does Jesus speak according to v. 28?

What does Jesus “always do” according to v. 29?

If we are to walk as Christ walked, how should these verses affect how we live?

Many of us live in such a way that we think life will go on forever. We plan our days, weeks, and years, almost sure that we will have many more to come. However, the Bible gives us a different perspective of our lives here on earth. Not only does the Bible point us to keep eternal things in our sight on a daily basis but it also warns us not to think that we will be on this earth forever. Combining these two perspectives ought to make us use each day that we are blessed with to live for the benefit of God’s eternal kingdom! We will order our lives around kingdom purposes!

Read Psalm 39:4-6

What is the life of man compared to in this passage? What does this mean?

Why do you think the Psalmist is asking God to help him understand how short his life is?

Read James 4:13-17

What does James compare our lives to in v. 14? What do you think this means?



How does this passage say we ought to view our future plans?

How ought this perspective affect the way we live “today”?

Read Psalm 90:12

What does Moses ask God to teach him?

What does he say the result of understanding this will be?

How does understanding how short life is correlate with living wisely?

The Bible rightly helps us understand that our lives here are much shorter than we think. Just as fast as we come into the world we will be leaving it. As we understand these truths, that we have one life and that life is short, we ought to consider how we can make the most of this life. And from following the example of Jesus as we learned earlier, we should be asking, “How does God say that I can make the most of this life?” The final passages we will look at will shed light on how we can answer these questions and have a biblical, God-centered perspective about how to use the time we have here!

Read Ephesians 5:15-20

How are we to live according to v. 15? What do you think this means for us on a daily or weekly basis?

Why should we make the most of our time? What does this mean?



Rewrite Ephesians 5:15-17 in your own words.

What are ways we can ensure we “make the most of our time”?

Read Matthew 6:19-21

Why shouldn't we spend our lives focused on treasures on earth?

Why should we focus on treasures in heaven? What do you think Jesus means by treasures in heaven? (You may need to look up other verses to better answer)

REFLECT

How intentional are you when it comes to how you spend your time? What are things in your life that are keeping you from “making the most of your time”?

Read the poem by CT Studd below. Write down lines that stand out. Why did you write these?

Only One Life by CT Studd (Select stanzas)

Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life's busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet,
And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.



Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,
Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call,
I know I'll say "twas worth it all";
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

What are ways you can remember that life is a vapor and that the treasures of earth are fleeting?

DISCUSS

1. What verse from this section was most convicting and why?
2. How can you be more intentional about where your time is spent?
3. Why is it so hard to live like Jesus and "always do" what pleases God?

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 5:15-16

WATCH

Scan the QR code to hear a sermon by Francis Chan to go a little deeper!





Sermon Notes - Francis Chan



Relates Properly to All Believers and The Local Church

“The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Have you ever built or seen a bonfire? You could be in the pitch black out in the middle of nowhere, and it would still provide enough light for a large group of people. A bonfire consists of a bunch of hot coals and logs burning together in order to create a large flame and produce a great amount of heat. Sometimes you can't even get very close because of how hot it is! However, if you were to take one of those logs and put it outside the fire on its own, what would happen? Well not only would that log by itself produce less light and less heat, but also it would burn out much quicker than the logs that remain in the fire. The same is true for believers. If we attempt to do the Christian life alone we will not be nearly as radiant to the lost world, nor will we produce much that will affect the world around us. But not only that, we most likely will not endure. But doing life with others, even if they are believers, is hard. So why is it worth it and how do we do it? Let's take a look at why we need community, how to live in it, and why it's worth it!

FIRST THOUGHTS

What has been your experience with church, both good and bad? Do you think it's important to be connected to a body of believers? Why or why not?

STUDY

Read Romans 12:3-8

What two mindsets does Paul compare and contrast in v. 3?

Why do you think Paul starts with v. 3 before talking about the body of believers?



Write down observations about things pertaining to both the INDIVIDUALS MEMBERS and the COLLECTIVE BODY in these passages.

Verse 7-8 lists different gifts. If there are believers who have different gifts than you, then why do you need other believers and other believers need you?

Read Romans 12:9-13

What are some ways we are commanded to relate to one another in these verses?

Read 1 Corinthians 12

Write down observations from this chapter that further enforce what Romans 12:3-12 was teaching.

Read the following verses and list the different categories and ethnicities of people mentioned in each of these verses.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Colossians 3:11

Acts 2:5-11



What does this show us about who makes up God's people?

How does this help us understand how we should relate to those in Christ that look differently, speak differently, and live differently than us?

"The fall destroyed union and unity with God and each other. Reunion is the story of Scripture. These words we find throughout God's Word- renewed, reconciled, united - are the reversal of the fractures, divides, breaks, and partitions of life in this world and before God that were and are so desperately needed. We are truly stamped from the beginning for unity and union, for wholeness and shalom, for beauty. God himself is committed to knitting the human race together in Jesus Christ." - Dr. Irwyn Ince, The Beautiful Community

The body of Christ or the church is not only diverse in its measure of faith, gifting, and design but also in its ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, and culture. This is one of the things that makes the church so unique and beautiful. However, even though the church is made up of people of every kind and from every place, we are united. You cannot look in the Bible and not see that one of the most common themes in Scripture is God's people being united. There are many things that unite God's people including who they belong to and what they exist for.

Read Ephesians 4:1-7

What word is repeated in this passage? How many times is it used?

What insights does this passage give us about how we ought to relate to one another?

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2

How ought we relate to fellow believers in specific, individual ways according to this passage?



How ought we relate to fellow believers similarly according to this passage? What does this mean?

Read Colossians 3:12-17

What all are we commanded to do *with* or *to* one another in this passage?

What character traits should we display toward others according to v. 12? Define each of these.

Read James 5:19-20

What is implied that the church ought to do when one of its members strays from the truth?

Why is this a good thing according to the passage?

"A healthy church is not a church that's perfect and without sin. It has not figured everything out. Rather, it's a church that continually strives to take God's side in the battle against the ungodly desires and deceits of the world, our flesh, and the devil. It's a church that continually seeks to conform itself to God's Word."
- Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*

REFLECT

What benefits are there in being a member of a local church according to what you have seen in this section? Are you a member of a local church? Why or why not?



What ways do you feel God has gifted you and how could you use that to bless others? What areas of weakness do you see where others could be a blessing to you?

Explain in your own words why it's important for the church to be diverse yet unified.

DISCUSS

1. Oftentimes instead of celebrating others gifts, we become jealous or envious. Why do you think this happens to most of us?
2. What are some reasons that you have heard some Christians give for not getting involved in a local church?
3. What makes it so hard for us to forgive one another? Why should this be natural for Christians?

MEMORIZE

Romans 12:3-5

WATCH

Scan the QR code to hear a sermon by Voddie Baucham to go a little deeper!





Sermon Notes - Voddie Baucham (Ephesians 4)



Evangelizes as a Lifestyle

*"If Jesus is the greatest thing that ever happened to us, He should come up in conversations. Not forced, not structured, but simply because He is the biggest deal in our lives."
- Alvin Reid, Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out*

How did you come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Was it through a relationship of some sort? Was it through a parent, childhood friend, or someone brought you to a retreat or Sunday service where you heard the gospel preached? Almost assuredly there is someone in your life whom God used to bring you to Himself. In other words, you were "evangelized". This word comes from the Greek word used in the Scriptures meaning good news. To evangelize means to preach the good news about Jesus being the one who can restore us to a right relationship with God. We ought to want to tell others about this message that has radically changed our eternities! We do not need to know all the answers to all of life's questions to share Christ. We just need to make sure we know what the message of the gospel is, point people to the Scriptures, and trust in the Holy Spirit to do the rest!

FIRST THOUGHTS

What keeps you from sharing Christ with others more often? On a scale of 1-10 how well prepared do you feel to share the gospel with a nonbeliever? Why?

STUDY

Read Acts 1:8

What does Jesus say we will be once we receive the power of the Spirit? Describe what this means in your own words.

Why do you think it's important that the Holy Spirit enables us to be Christ's witnesses?



Look up a map of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria during Biblical times. What do you notice about the order of the regions Christ calls us to be witnesses in?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

What are we called to do according to this passage? How do you think we are to do this?

What is the promise that Jesus gives us and why is it important for us in regards to evangelism?

Read Romans 10:13-17

How does someone get saved according to v. 13 and who is this available to?

Jot down the steps it takes for someone to get to the place of calling on the Lord.

What must happen according to these passages for someone to have faith in Christ? Why does this matter to us?

“According to the New Testament, evangelism is just preaching the gospel, the evangel. It is a work of communicating in which Christians make themselves mouthpieces for God’s message of mercy to sinners. Anyone who faithfully delivers that message, under whatever circumstances, in a large meeting, small meeting, from a pulpit or in a private conversation is evangelizing.” - JI Packer, Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

So we understand we are witnesses and called to preach the gospel. We also understand that in order for people to respond to the gospel they must hear the



gospel! So why not from you? Many Christians have a million excuses for why they don't share the gospel with others. More than often some of the reasons have to do with not knowing enough and not feeling very good at communicating to others (usually relative to someone else). The great news is that evangelism is simple and you aren't as important as you think you are. All we have to do is get people to come in contact with Jesus in the Scriptures and watch what happens. Let's look at how simple evangelism can be from a couple examples in the Bible.

Read John 4:1-42

Although the passage doesn't speak of her conversion explicitly, how might we know from the passage that the Samaritan woman believed in Jesus?

Reread v. 29 & 39. Why do you think the woman went to go tell others? What is the result of her telling others?

What do the men do after hearing from the woman? What is the result? (v. 40-42)

What principles about evangelism do you think this passage teaches us?

Read Acts 8:25-40

What led Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch at first and what led him to speak to him?

What is the primary tool that Philip uses to preach Christ to the eunuch? Why is this important for us to take notice of?



How does the eunuch respond to Philip's message?

What does Philip do after this encounter according to v. 40?

What important principles about evangelism can we learn from this passage of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch?

Read Romans 1:16

What is the power of God for salvation according to this passage?

How does this relieve pressure off of us in evangelism?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:5-12

What led Paul and his companions to gladly share the gospel with the Thessalonians according to v. 8? What does this have to do with evangelism?

Paul didn't *only* share the gospel with them, what else did he share? Why is this important in the process of evangelism?

What accompanied Paul's preaching that made his message more effective?

What role do you think our model and our actions play in evangelism?



“Lost people are more amazed at our silence than they are offended by our message.”

- Alvin Reid, *Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out*

REFLECT

How has your perspective on evangelism changed or been helped by this study?

Who are some people in your life that you want to share the gospel with? Write down a couple and spend a couple minutes praying for them.

We saw the Spirit and the Scriptures play a vital role in the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. How can you be more sensitive to where the Spirit is leading you? What areas of the Scriptures would you like to become more familiar with?

DISCUSS

1. What are the main excuses you hear Christians give for not sharing the gospel with others? Any that you find yourself giving?
2. Who do you see in the normal rhythms of your life that you are unsure about where they stand in regards to their faith?
3. Why do you think it's important that we love those that we are sharing the gospel with? What makes this hard?

MEMORIZE

Acts 1:8

WATCH

Scan the QR code to hear a sermon by David Platt to go a little deeper!





Sermon Notes - David Platt (Romans 1)



Reproduces Third Generation Disciples

“Discipleship is a work of the Spirit and the Word through a life-on-life process, whereby a follower of Jesus Christ with a life worth emulating commits himself for an extended period of time to a few hungry individuals who have been evangelized. The purpose being to establish them to grow to maturity and equip them to reproduce third-generation disciples.”
- Campus Outreach Discipleship Definition

We looked last week at the characteristic of a laborer “Evangelizes as a Lifestyle.” However, once you share the gospel with someone or they come to know Christ, the work is far from over! Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators ministry, had a habit of picking up hitchhikers and sharing the gospel with them. One day he picked up a young man who got in the car swearing and disgruntled. He looked relatively familiar to Dawson and then he realized that one year earlier he had picked up the same man and had led him to Christ. The only problem was that as they talked, Dawson realized he hadn’t matured in Christ at all in the last year. He realized that he needed to not only evangelize others, but also do life with them, like Jesus did with His disciples. Laborers don’t simply share the gospel and move on; they are committed to discipleship! This was Jesus’ method, this was Paul’s method, and this ought to be our method.

FIRST THOUGHTS

What is one skill have you acquired in your life? What were some things that helped you learn that skill? How long did it take for you to become skilled in that?

STUDY

Read Mark 3:13-14

For what two reasons did Jesus appoint the disciples?

What principle of discipleship do we learn from this passage?



Read Matthew 4:18-20

What command did Jesus give to Peter and Andrew?

According to Jesus what will be the result of this?

Although we certainly seek to model our discipleship after Jesus, the perfect Son of God, there are others in the Bible that we are able to learn from as well. Probably the second most important person in the New Testament after Jesus is Paul the Apostle. Paul wrote over half of the New Testament and was instrumental in the gospel reaching both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). In Paul's letters and in the book of Acts, we get some insights into what made Paul so effective in ministry and learn plenty of principles about discipleship done the way the God would have it be done.

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2

What does Paul call Timothy and what does this reveal to us about the discipleship relationship Paul had with him?

What is the command in v. 1?

What is the command in v. 2?

Why do you think these commands are given in this order?

How many generations of disciples do we see in these verses? Who are they?



How does Paul describe the people Timothy should be teaching?

Read 1 Thessalonians 1

What are the signs that the new believers in Thessalonica have matured in their faith?

Where do we see in this passage that the gospel that Paul preached to them is now being passed on to others through them?

Read the following passages and write how long Paul stayed teaching in each place.

Acts 11:25-26

Acts 18:5-11

Acts 19:9-10

Acts 20:1-3

Acts 28:30-31

What principles might this teach us about discipleship?



REFLECT

How would you define discipleship in your own words?

Is the way you are living your life currently conducive to making disciples? Why or why not?

What is one area you would like to be more competent in when it comes to discipling others? Who could you ask for help?

DISCUSS

1. Why is it important to consider discipleship and not just evangelism? And what is the relationship between those?
2. "More is caught than taught" is a phrase used a lot in relation to discipleship. What do you think this means and in your experience is that true?
3. What are some small ways you could begin to involve yourself in the work of making disciples?

MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 2:1-2

WATCH

Scan the QR code to hear a sermon by Matt Chandler to go a little deeper!





Sermon Notes - Matt Chandler (Matthew 13)



Steps Out in Faith and Dependence

*"Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still."
- EM Bounds*

There are many things that are encompassed in being a laborer. However, there is maybe nothing more important for the laborer to do than to labor in prayer. Prayer is the offering up of your desires unto God. We are only able to have access to God because of the blood of Jesus Christ who is our righteousness. When we pray in Jesus' name we are able to come to God at any place, at any time, for any reason. Making disciples involves taking risks and being committed to a process that has very little to do with you! We are trusting that God might transform someone's heart, starting with our own, and that is simply something that we do not have the power to do. As disciples of Christ, we must have a posture of dependence upon God in everything we do. We must depend on Him for strength to get through the day and for Him to use us to do His will! Faith is the prerequisite for prayer but it is also the result of prayer! This week we will look at why we pray, how to pray, and examples of God working through prayer!

FIRST THOUGHTS

What does your prayer life look like on a weekly basis? What kinds of things do you usually pray for?

STUDY

Read Jeremiah 33:3

What is the result of calling to God according to this verse?

Read Philippians 4:6-7

What commands are we given in this passage? (Hint: one negative, one positive)



What is the result of prayer according to this verse?

Read Ephesians 3:20-21

What reason might this verse give us to pray?

Read Matthew 7:7-11

What three actions are compared to prayer and what are their accompanying results?

Explain the analogy that Jesus gives in v. 9-11. Why should this motivate us to pray?

We have looked at a few different reasons for why we pray. But we also must consider how we pray. While what to pray for is important, the posture we ought to have as we pray matters as well. Although we have full access to the throne of God through Jesus Christ, we ought to use it to bring before Him prayers that honor and glorify Him! We want to pray the things that He wants us to pray, in the way that He wants us to pray. This shouldn't cause us to overthink prayer, because ultimately it is not the words that come out of our mouths so much as our heart in prayer that honors God. But let us look to the example Jesus gives us for what kinds of things we ought to pray for and also in what way we ought to come!

Read Luke 18:9-14

What characterizes the Pharisee's prayer?

What characterizes the publican's/tax collector's prayer?



What does this teach us about how we ought to approach God in prayer?

Read Matthew 6:5-13

Why do the hypocrites pray in v.5-6? What principle does this teach us about prayer?

According to v. 7-8, is God concerned with the length of our prayers? Why or why not?

In v. 9 Jesus begins His prayer by recognizing who God is and where He is. Why do you think this would be important in the beginning of prayer?

What should be the focus of our prayers according to v. 10?

What do you think is meant by praying for our daily bread?

What are we to ask for according to v. 12? Why do you think we ought to pray this daily?

Why do we need to pray against temptation?

Rewrite the Lord's Prayer in your own words.



Read John 17

This is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus. List some of the different things He prays for.

“Who can tell the measure of God’s powers? One might estimate the weight of the world, tell the size of the Celestial City, count the stars of heaven, measure the speed of lightning, and tell the time by the rising and setting of the sun - but you cannot estimate prayer power. Prayer is as vast as God because He is behind it. Prayer is as mighty as God, because He has committed Himself to answer it.” - Leonard Ravenhill, Why Revival Tarries

We now see why we ought to pray, how we ought to pray, and some of the things Jesus taught us to pray for. But does prayer actually work? Does God really listen to us when we pray? We close our study on prayer by looking at some examples of God answering the prayers of His people in mighty ways. As we look at these examples, may it encourage us to not withhold any prayer, no matter how incredible it may seem, knowing that our God is listening and is powerful beyond measure! Pray big prayers because God is Lord of the universe!

Read 1 Kings 18:20-40

Summarize the story of Elijah vs. the prophets of Baal.

What happens when Elijah prays?

Read Nehemiah 2:1-8

What is the reason that Nehemiah gives for the king granting him his request in v.8?



Read Acts 12:1-16

What is the result of prayer in this passage?

REFLECT

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being amazing) how would you rate your prayer life? Why?

Do your prayers actually require God in order for them to come to pass? Are your prayers too small?

Write out 3-5 things you want to begin praying for on a daily basis this week.

DISCUSS

1. What do you think are some of the biggest things that keep you from praying more?
2. Who is one person that doesn't know Christ that you can start praying for on a consistent basis?
3. Do you believe that prayer works? Why or why not?

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 3:20

WATCH

Scan the QR code to hear a sermon by John Onwuchekwa to go a little deeper!





Sermon Notes - John Onwuchekwa (Mark 14)