

## **RADICAL**

### **SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS 8 & 9**

Chapter 8— “Americans will postpone immediate gratification and even endure hard sacrifices if they are convinced their future will be better than their past. Americans are willing to take great risks... if they believe it will accomplish great reward... Jesus clearly acknowledged that following Him involves risking the safety, security, and satisfaction we have found in this world. But in the end, Jesus said, following Him leads to a radical reward that this world can never offer” (p 161). Thus, His call is for us to move away from comfort and toward Gospel need, which often leads to persecution and danger as “the more our lives are conformed to His, the more we will receive what He received in this world” (p 167). However, believers can take heart knowing our safety “is not found in the comforts of this world but in the control of a sovereign God over the world” (p 172). Truly “your life is free to be radical when you see death as reward... If your life or my life is going to count on earth, we must start by concentrating on Heaven” (p 179). The eternally great reward we pursue “is the great reward of the Gospel: God Himself” (p 181).

Chapter 9— “You and I have an average of about seventy or eighty years on this earth. During these years we are bombarded with the temporary. Make money. Get stuff. Be comfortable. Live well. Have fun. In the middle of it all, we get blinded to the eternal... You and I stand on the porch of eternity. Both of us will soon stand before God to give an account for our stewardship of the time, the resources, the gifts, and ultimately the Gospel He has entrusted to us. When that day comes... we will not wish we had given more of ourselves to living the American dream” (p 216). So, here is the one year “Radical Experiment”: “Over the next year to pray for the entire world. To read through the entire Word. To sacrifice your money for a specific purpose. To spend your time in another context. To commit your life to a multiplying community. Will you take the challenge?” (p 212).

### Leaders remember our monthly goals

1. Prayer- around gospel encounters, pains in the group, praises of our great God.
2. Encourage intentional living (gospel in the everyday)
3. Verbally inform about church life- announcements (or prayer about - facility, prayer regarding pressing issues in your group or in the church- see point one)
4. Apply the word
  - a. Scripture memory
  - b. sermon application
  - c. Putting off the old self and putting on Christ
    - i. confession leading to repentance through
    - ii. accountability- we want people to be suspicious of their own hearts and learn to apply the gospel with adults and children.

### 5. Joy in all you do ☺

Refresh everyone’s memory of the chapters by reading the summary:

1. Talk about interesting or convicting quotes from Chapters 8 & 9. What questions do your group members have pertaining to these chapters?
2. Remind our people that self-denying love for others does not earn us right standing before God, but rather is a fruit of the heart that sees the beauty and all-satisfying nature of Jesus. The Gospel must be our fuel and motivation for living intentional lives of love and sacrifice where God has us.
3. Discuss texts of Scripture that encourage us to look to the eternal reward. What disciplines can group members share with one another that help them to “Set their minds on things above, not earthly things”? (Col 3:2). What worldly comforts are clouding our eternal perspective and leading to functional unbelief in God’s future grace?
4. Share or have group members share how in persecution or hardship due to Gospel intentionality you/they have been comforted by God’s sovereignty, felt security from His love, or been satisfied by His presence. Encourage one another to persevere in sacrificial love in light of God’s grace.
5. Discuss as a group the “Radical Experiment” and how God is prompting individuals to devote themselves to these things in specific areas. How are people going to sacrifice their money? How will they seek to spend their time in another context? Encourage one another by acknowledging God’s grace in their lives as they seek to live for His glory in these ways.