

## A Traveler's Guide: Learning to Gospel One-Another

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

1 Pet 2:3; Psalms 73; 103; John 4:21-24; Romans 8:31-39

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### Gospel Truths to Remember Every Moment

- God is Great – so we don't have to be in control
- God is Glorious – so we do not have to fear others
- God is Good – so we don't have to look elsewhere
- God is Gracious – so we don't have to prove ourselves

*if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good - 1 Pet 2:3*

### God is GOOD - so I don't have to look elsewhere...

- Story of God: Adam & Eve doubted God's goodness (Gen 3:1-7)
- They believed the lie, "God is not good and He's holding out on you..."
- Since the Fall, we've like Adam, sought to hide from God and clothe ourselves to make ourselves acceptable to God.
- God is Good – in the face of rebellion God promised a Savior (Gen 3:15)
- God is Good – He provides us with good things & comforts.
- We often pervert them and seek fulfillment in them rather than God alone

### Looking for fulfillment in anything but God is idolatry

- We too often live in the moment and not for God's eternity
- Marriage; family; work; security; pleasure all good things from God... except...
- "if you look for satisfaction, fulfillment or identity in anything other than Jesus you will be left most empty!"
- We often lose sight of this: consider Psalms 73:1-3; 21-28 or Psalm 103
- We often worship things that satisfy, rather than God - John 4 woman @ Well
- Jesus: worship is not about location but an attitude of the heart John 4:24
- It is saying: "My God is Good - I don't need to look elsewhere for..."

### Four Areas from which we pick our idols:

- Comfort; Approval; Control; Power
- Our hearts are idols factories – we often worship anything but God

### So what are we to do? REPENT & REJOICE

- Repent - realize your idols are weak & will never satisfy.
  - recognize when you use others & things for your own end!
  - my idolatry does more than break God's law, it breaks His heart!
    - Just remember the cost of the Gospel: Romans 5:8; 8:32 to God!
- Rejoice - in the reality of the Gospel: Eph 1:6; 1 John 3:16
  - replace your idolatry & sin with a greater love – identity in Christ!
  - Rejoice like Paul: Romans 8:31-39

### To Think About:

- ▶ Practice: "God is Great - so I don't have to be in control." Pick 1 or more verses to memorize that remind you of this.
- ▶ Practice: "God is Glorious - so I don't have to fear others." Pick 1 or more verses to memorize that remind you of this.
- ▶ Practice: "God is Good - so I don't have to look elsewhere for satisfaction." Pick 1 or more verses to memorize that remind you of this truth!
- ▶ At the end of each day this week, stop and ask yourself if you something or someone became more glorious than the truth of the Gospel? Look for the idols of comfort, approval, control, and power.
- ▶ Practice using the 4 Gospel questions when reading your Bible:
  - 1) Who is God?
  - 2) What has He done?
  - 3) Who am I in light of God's work?
  - 4) How should I live in light of this? What if I believed God?
- ▶ Practice sharing these Gospel truths with others – be transparent and willing to say things like: "Wow, I was not treasuring Christ... I was... but then I realized that God is Good and I don't have look elsewhere for my satisfaction!"

### Four Areas to look for Idols:

Idol Area:	Comfort	Approval	Control	Power
What I seek:	my privacy; a lack of stress; my freedom	affirmation; love; relationship	discipline; certainty; standards	I must win, have influence
What I'm willing to pay:	reduced productivity; isolation - because others are messy	less independence (don't like to be alone); being manipulated	lack of spontaneity	burdened, responsible, feeling it is all up to me
What I fear:	stress, other's demands, responsibility	rejection; criticism	uncertainty; things beyond our control	humiliation, lack of respect, incompetence
Problem emotion:	boredom (rarely take risks, we hold back, safety over freedom)	cowardice (we won't tell the whole truth)	worry & anxiety (because we can't control everything)	anger (because people get in the way)