

THE GOSPEL CLASS

This preaching series is designed to communicate the beliefs and practices of The Church at Martinsburg. It also serves as the biblical overview of the foundation from which our theology and community springs. Content of *The Gospel Class* includes an overview of our church and our core values, with a doctrinal exploration of the Scriptures, God, Creation, Sin, Salvation, the Missional Church, Stewardship and Spiritual Gifts. This series explores basic, biblical theology and how this teaching plays out philosophically and practically in the way we embody the gospel to the neighborhood in which we live.

Growth Questions

1. Share with the group any insight, truth or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, challenged you, or ministered to you.
2. According to Ro. 1:16, what is the gospel?
3. As an unbeliever, how might you respond to the question, "What is the meaning of life?" Consider how these verses answer that question: (Eph. 1:4-5; Ge. 1:27-28; Is. 43:7; Rev. 4:11)
4. Discuss these aspects of the gospel:
 - a. What is man's natural state without the gospel? (Ro. 3:10,23 & 6:23; Is. 59:2; Eph. 2:1)
 - b. In what ways does man attempt to fix this state? Why do these attempts fail? (Eph. 2:8-9 & Titus 3:5)
 - c. In His holiness, what is God's response to sin? In His love, what is His provision for the sinner? (Rev. 2:18; John 3:16; Ro. 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18; Is. 53:10)
 - d. Define confession and repentance.
 - e. How would you define genuine faith? What does it mean to "by faith accept or receive" God's free gift of salvation? (Acts 20:21-22; Mt. 11:28; Ro. 3:28; John 1:12) How do we do this?

Living on Mission

1. In 2 Cor. 13:5, Paul urges, "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves..." Spend some time talking with God. In what ways has God verified that your relationship with Him is genuine?
2. Don't know Christ? You can receive Jesus as your Savior by calling out to Him with a heart of humility, recognizing your need for a Savior. Confess your sins before Him and believe in the Truth of His resurrection, follow Him and forsake the world. (Ro. 10:9-10, 13)
3. Preach the gospel to yourself. How does God want to apply the gospel to your current circumstances and struggles? Ask God to help you to "preach the gospel" to yourself daily.
4. If you are a believer, do you currently have unbelieving people in your life that need the gospel? Pray for them now. Ask God to empower you to share the good news boldly. (Eph. 6:19-20)

A Word about Community Groups - Gathering weekly for fellowship and accountability, study and prayer, good times and tears, Community Groups are an essential expression of our church's mission. At the heart of the Community Groups ministry is the desire to see a community of believers who worship Jesus, love one another, and embody the mission of The Church at Martinsburg to make disciples. God has called us to a continuous lifestyle of worship and relationship with Himself, which is cultivated and nurtured within the body of Christ. The Church is a people. It is a gift of God. At C@M, community groups are the place where discipleship and care takes place. It is where we encourage one another to be worshipers of our Lord. It is where the body becomes the body, loving, caring and challenging one another. As well, it is within community that we engage culture and incarnate Jesus in our city.

2012 MINISTRY SUPPORT PLAN

The Church at Martinsburg's 2012 Ministry Support Plan is available on line at www.martinsburgchurch.org.

IMPORTANT DATES

2/12/12 – Community Groups
2/12/12 – Next Steps w/C@M
03/18/12 Volunteer Banquet – Watch for your Invite

NEXT STEPS WITH THE CHURCH AT MARTINSBURG – TODAY

Are you new to The Church at Martinsburg or do you simply want a bit more information about the church? Next Steps is your opportunity to meet our leaders, be given a chance to ask questions, acquaint yourself with our vision and learn everything you could possibly want to know about the church. You will also learn how to connect to our church through community groups, volunteer opportunities, and more. Lunch will be provided during the event.

2011 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS

Year-end giving statements are available now! There are 2 ways to get your giving statement.

1. Log on to C@M Connect at connect.martinsburgchurch.org, go to your profile and click financial. Your year-end statement is available for download.
2. Call or email the church office and request your giving statement to be sent directly to you. (304) 596-9330 or contact@martinsburgchurch.org

Thanks for using these methods of obtaining your statements.

G4 Kids – Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to serve in Motion (nursery), Discovery (preschool), and Launch (k-5). If you are interested in serving one of these areas please contact the church office at (304) 596-9330 or contact@martinsburgchurch.org to receive an information packet and background check form.

VOLUNTEERING Interested in serving at C@M? Our volunteers are a huge part of what takes place here not only on Sundays, but the entire week. Visit volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org to see the opportunities we have posted and sign up today! You can call (304) 596-9330 or email contact@martinsburgchurch.org.

PASTOR ON CALL FOR 02/17/12 – 02/20/12 JACOB ATCHLEY

If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

Missionary Toolbox

Church History Bio – Cyprian of Carthage (200-258) - Cyprian wasn't even converted until he was in his forties, but his full and immediate dedication to the Christian faith, morals, and practice along with his native ability in leadership, caused a meteoric rise into the bishopric of Carthage. His controversial views on water baptism and the laying on of hands drew threat of excommunication from Rome, though the death of Stephen I and a new wave of persecution delayed his demise for another year. He was finally banished to Curubis and beheaded outside of Carthage.

Theological Term of the Week – The Gospel - the good news is that the one and only God, who is holy, made us in his image to know him. But we sinned and cut ourselves off from him. In his great love, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross, thus fulfilling the law himself and taking on himself the punishment for the sins of all those who would ever turn and trust in him. He rose again from the dead, showing that God accepted Christ's sacrifice and that God's wrath against us had been exhausted. He now calls us to repent of our sins and trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. If we repent of our sins and trust in Christ, we are born again into a new life, an eternal life with God." (Mark Dever)