

The Gospel Class

GIVING | 03.18.12

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, or ministered to you.
2. Take some time to read 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. List with your group some characteristics of a radically generous heart.
3. Read 1 Tim. 6:5-10, Matt. 6:19-24 & 6:1-4, Prov. 22:7, Eccl. 4:4, Prov. 15:16 & 13:4, 1 Tim. 5:8, Prov. 21:5. What are some of the pitfalls we experience when we focus on wealth rather than worship?
4. Do you think God is concerned more with how much we give or is He is more concerned about our motive for giving? What does 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:1-4 and Prov. 3:9 teach about how much we give? What are the motives God is interested in?
5. Consider this quote: "Worry is an indicator of worship. What you worry about is what you don't want to lose. Therefore Jesus says that worrying about money and your future is an indicator of a lack of trust in God. Worse, it shows that the heart's true hope is in wealth." (Matt. 6:24-34) Do you agree? What could a person do if they were caught up in worry?

Living on Mission

1. What does your use of your time, talents, and treasure say about where your treasure is? Is that where your heart is? Take some time to reevaluate the use of your resources and to repent of anything not pleasing to God.
2. Would you treat your resources differently if they belonged to someone else? What would change if you truly acted on the truth that God owns everything that you have: money, time, home, clothes, food, furniture, investments, abilities, gifts...?
3. If you gave until it lowered your lifestyle, would you be worried? Of what? What might you give up to become extremely rich? To be extremely comfortable? Which one of these ends are your long-term goals set to reach?
4. Are you content with what you have? Read Heb. 13:1-6. Why do you think "discontentment" is sinful? What does it lead to? What does it say about God? Do you agree with this statement: "To be discontent is to accuse God with being either unloving or impotent. Contentment with our life is therefore as important a virtue as love, hospitality, mercy or fidelity." Explain.
5. What is your attitude toward others who have more money and possessions than you? What is your expectation of them? Do you wrestle with a sense of entitlement? What is your attitude toward the poor in your family, church, and community? What step of obedience is God asking you to take in order to help meet their need?

This Week's Reading:

Monday: 2 Corinthians 8 & 9
Tuesday: Luke 12:6-8
Wednesday: James 1:16-18
Thursday: 1 Timothy 6:5-10
Friday: James 4:1-4
Saturday: Acts 17:24-25

"Pray for a renewed heart that tells treasure what to do, not more treasure that tells your heart what to do."

Suggested Resource: 20 Day Study in Stewardship
<http://www.redeemer.com/serve/stewardship/resources.html>

IMPORTANT DATES

03/31/12 Mission Team Arrives
04/06/12 Good Friday Service - Hosted at Westview Baptist Church – 6:00 pm
Childcare will be provided.
04/08/12 Easter Worship Schedule - 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 Start inviting TODAY!
Baptisms at Easter – Register at baptism.martinsburgchurch.org
05/13/12 Baby/Child Dedication – Go to dedication.martinsburgchurch.org to register.

Please begin praying for the Mission Team coming to work with C@M from 03/31/12 through 04/04/12 and how you can get involved and serve with them.

Community Groups Going On Now – Join One Today!

For more information about group meeting times and locations, please visit groups.martinsburgchurch.org. 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.

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 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 03/23/12 – 03/26/12 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 – Antony of Egypt – "Desert Father" (AD 251-336): Antony was born with a silver spoon... when he was but 20 years old, his parents died and left him with great wealth. About that time, Antony heard Matthew 19:21, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell everything you have and give the money to the poor." That's what he did. He saw his calling as "becoming a lover of God by resisting the Devil and yielding to Christ." A man of tireless prayer and solitude, he was a trailblazer for monastic spirituality. He led others to lives of self-denial and evangelized, consoled, and eased the sufferings of persecuted Egyptian Christians in 303 AD.

Theological Term of the Week – Stewardship: "The belief and practice that everything we have comes from God and belongs to God: life, family, money, resources, time, job, talents... everything. We are stewards of what God has given us. He owns it; we use it..." for His glory.