

The Gospel Class

GO | 03.25.12

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. What is your first reaction to the word "evangelist"? What image comes to mind? Do you consider yourself one?
3. How does scripture define "evangelism". Consider these passages: (a form of the word for "evangelist" is translated "preaching" or "preach the gospel") Acts 8:1-4, 11:19-21; Ro. 10:15; 1 Cor. 9:16; 2 Tim. 4:5 To whom is this responsibility given? Read Mt. 28:18-20 – Is evangelism included?
4. What should be our motivations for proclaiming the gospel? In other words, **why** should we share the gospel?
5. What are some of the stumbling blocks we face as we try to proclaim the Gospel and reach those far from God? How does the scripture speak to these stumbling blocks?

Living on Mission

1. How intentional is your "missional" life? Are planning to "go" or are you actually "going"? Are you vocal about your faith in Christ or are you expecting others to pick up the good news through your good actions?
2. Do you fear sharing your faith? How do self-consciousness, fear, doubt, rationalization and the distractions of this world keep you from the commission God has given each of us? What needs to change?
3. Do you have a faith to share? Rehearse the message of the Gospel with your own heart. Test yourself to see if you are "in the faith". 2 Corinthians 13:5
4. Can you genuinely say that you love those who are still far from God? Pray and ask God how you can more fully engage your heart with the mission of proclaiming the Gospel.
5. Take some time to review the Gospel Class topics: Gospel, Growth, Groups, Gifts, Giving, and Go. Which is your strength? Where are you deficient? Ask God to empower you toward balance.

"If you are stumbling around in a dark cave with a group of people and suddenly you see a crack of light and you follow it, and it leads you out into the sunshine, you feel a great joy and exhilaration. Now you have two choices. You can go on your way rejoicing in the sunshine. But if you do, you know that before long your conscience will slay you and the sunshine will turn gray and you will not have the fullness of joy. The other choice you have is to tie a string around a tree and take the other end of it back into the cave in search of the other people lost in the dark. You know what you'd feel like. You might be scratching your hands and bumping your head, but O, you'd feel good! There is something really fulfilling about carrying the string of good news back into the cave. And when you walk out of the cave with somebody the sunshine is doubly bright and the air doubly sweet. And even if you can't find them, or if you find them and for some crazy reason they won't come out, your walking in the light may be somewhat somber, but you will know the joy of a clear conscience." John Piper

This Week's Reading:

Monday: Ephesians 3:10 Tuesday: Romans 10:13-14 Wednesday: 2 Peter 3:9
Thursday: 1 Peter 2:9 Friday: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19 Saturday: John 20:21

IMPORTANT DATES

- 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. Bring a friend!
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.

Moldova Mission: C@M will be sending a team to the country of Moldova this summer to hold a camp for orphans. We are putting together a team of 8 now! The team will be gone from July 5-14 and the total cost will be \$2,400, initial deposit due by April 8 and the balance due by June 3. Email contact@martinsburgchurch.org or go to missions.martinsburgchurch.org to register.

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

STUDENT COMMUNITY GROUP: Next meeting is Sunday, April 1st at 7:00 pm at the Culbertson's Home – Contact Justin at justin.j.culbertson@gmail.com with any questions.

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 03/30/12 – 04/02/12 Dan Edman

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 – Alexander Lindsay Glegg (1882-1975) Born in London of Scottish parents, Glegg was converted at a Keswick Convention in 1905, shortly after graduating in electrical engineering, yet spent all his free time in mission work among London's slum dwellers. God used him to bring 1000's into His kingdom in the British Isles. Students and businessmen, laborers and holiday makers all responded to his fresh and lively presentation of the gospel at a convention center he founded at in England). A great encourager of young evangelists, he not only advised them to play golf for their spiritual good, but also made it possible by his unobtrusive generosity. He was probably Britain's best-known evangelist of the 20th century.

Theological Term of the Week – Evangelist: Evangelists proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, calling those who hear to believe in Him. This may be in the context of missionary journeys, often in partnership with others, or within a more settled ministry. Carrying out the task requires integrity and commitment in the face of hardships and danger; it also brings joy at seeing the church grow.