

STANDING FIRM IN THE BATTLE
Study Questions Week 6
Ephesians 6:10-18

Read the entire book of Ephesians in one sitting and look for all the times Paul is telling the listeners what the gospel is (how someone is brought to salvation and what salvation in Christ means to the believer.). *Consider writing these verses down so they can help you articulate the gospel to yourself and others.*

Why is the gospel so important to understand? How is it useful in the life of a believer?

What part of the gospel have you found is especially necessary to you in helping you stand firm in the spiritual battle? Think about how the enemy attacks you personally in your thoughts and how a specific truth of the gospel combats those schemes and lies.

To help you think through this, look up Galatians 2:17-21. Read this passage and answer the following questions....

EXAMPLE SITUATION YOU MIGHT BE FACING: *"I am consistently battling discouragement in never feeling like I am making any progress in my pursuit of growing in the Lord and becoming more holy."*

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES: *"I can stay in my discouragement and become comfortable in that OR I can go to God and His word and readjust my thinking to address the discouragement with truth."*

FIRST TRUTH TO REMEMBER: *the gospel of Jesus Christ addresses all needs we will have.*

HOW DO I FIND THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL IN GOD'S WORD THAT WILL BRING ME THE CORRECT PERSPECTIVE AND GIVE ME HOPE: *Remember that the word of God ... II Tim 3:16 "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness... THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPLETE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK." This verse brings me back to the foundation that*

I can go to God's very words and receive what I need...correction and training so that I may be equipped. But this is just the beginning...keep going.

*****ALL THIS IS PREPARING YOUR HEART TO RECEIVE TRUTH...NOW GO TO THE GOSPEL FOUND IN THE WORD OF GOD**

LOOK FOR PASSAGES ON WHAT CHRIST **DID** AND WHAT THAT PRODUCES IN US, NOT JUST VERSES THAT ENCOURAGE YOU TO ADDRESS A FELT NEED. WHEN WE ARE FILLED WITH TRUTH, OUR HOPE IS ADJUSTED PROPERLY: *For this example, look at Galatians 2:17-21 and notice key points*

1) *I proved to be a sinner when I tried to follow the law (list of commandments) in order to be justified and saved.*

2) *"What happened when I was justified?" I died to the law....why? SO THAT I MIGHT LIVE TO GOD.*

3) *What happened when I died to the law? I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED **WITH** CHRIST. What does that mean? I NO LONGER LIVE BUT CHRIST LIVES **WITHIN** ME.*

4) *What are the implications of that in my personal life? THE LIFE I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.*

HOW CAN THIS TRANSFORM MY LIFE? *When I am tempted to think that my standing with God is based on my performance and ability to live a certain way, then I am placing worldly perspective on the gospel. The law (the Word of God) shows me that I am a sinner and not until I was actively crucified WITH Christ was I able to now live my life in a state of faith. While in the human body I am now called to walk by faith in the Son of God (not myself) so that I might live for God and not myself or my accomplishments or feelings. Knowing this can free me from having to attain a certain level of performance but it also compels me to give myself to HIM and not just a list of commandments to measure myself by. He is the standard of godliness that I am striving for, which He has already attained so I am guaranteed to by pleasing to Him because CHRIST LIVES WITHIN ME!*

Now take this process and find a scripture that you can apply this to and give you truth of the gospel to use as part of the armor in your spiritual battle for holiness.