

# Why It Matters

*Long Beach Alliance Church • January 12, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford*

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

**~Romans 1:16 (ESV)**

## **1) God Reveals Himself As Gospel Centered**

- A) The Bible is a unified salvation story, beginning with God creating, and ending with God re-creating. It's God's story, and when we read it, we are 'getting to know' the God who graciously reveals Himself.
- B) God reveals our great need for Messiah, a Savior. The focus of the Bible is on stories which point toward God's provision of forgiveness through Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- C) Stories of Philip with the Ethiopian Treasurer (Acts 8:26-40) and Jesus with Cleopas (Luke 24:13-35) reveal how the Bible tells the bigger story of God providing salvation for mankind through Jesus Christ alone.
- D) God even provides His Spirit as a Helper for His followers to remember God's Word (John 14:26), live spiritually engaged lives (16:8-15), and learn to live and pray dependently on God (Romans 8:26).
- E) God created mankind to reflect Him, sin shatters the reflection, Jesus is God in the flesh - the exact image of God, who offers to heal sin-shattered lives so they can reflect God once again. This is Good News - the Gospel!



## **2) The Gospel Is Powerful To Save**

- A) The Gospel is ridiculous! Avoiding it makes perfectly logical sense! The Gospel is as scandalous today as it was during Jesus' time (1 Corinthians 1:18-31)!
- B) Yet, despite this, people still find themselves convinced of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. People reorient their lives to the Gospel every single day! Is it because it is easy? Is it because it's logical? Is it because people desire mystical or mysterious experiences? Why?!
- C) It is because the Gospel is powerful. The Spirit, working through the Word of God, by the work of Jesus Christ, is powerful (Romans 1:16). Do you believe it? Do you live by it? Do you soak yourself in it? Is it alive in YOU?!
- D) Do you have a sense of your total neediness? A need for total dependence on God? We cannot do anything apart from God. Feeling powerless? Perfect! Fall to your knees before Almighty God, and depend on His power!

## **3) The Gospel Is Powerful For The Deeper Life**

- A) The Gospel does not simply save us at a single moment in time, it also continually engages us in the renewing and re-creating of the Christian (1 Corinthians 15:1-2).
- B) The Gospel is scandalous in its simplicity, and still profound in its depth and complexity. Each of us need to be "freshly wrecked" by the profound spiritual formation which the Gospel provides (Romans 12:1-13).

## **4) The Gospel Is Powerful To Motivate Mission**

- A) The Spirit of God fills us with an intentional motivation to "fulfill the mission" of reaching out with God's great Gospel love to the whole world (Romans 12:14-21).
- B) The modern church is not suffering from a missional problem, we suffer a gospel problem! The answer is not marketing or motivation, but 'getting to know' God!