

The Gospel of...

We all have different perspectives, but what perspective does God want us to have? It is powerful and life changing to have the perspective of the Gospel.

Colossians 2:2-18

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Final Greetings

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹ He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

¹⁰ My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

¹⁶ After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

¹⁷ Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”

¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you”.

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Gospel Perspective

Paul started his letter to the Romans with: *“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God”*

A Gospel perspective is not just a point of view or religious ideas but it is *active* and it stimulates something within us. The first thing it activates is “Gospel prayers”.

We are called to be Ambassadors for Christ; everywhere we go whatever we do.

*“...for which I am an **ambassador** in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should” (Ephesians 6:20)*

Gospel Prayers (Verses 2-3)

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains”

Ezra told us about Randy’s first visit to his church family in Austin Texas. Randy told the people; “I’ve never met you but I love you have been praying for you”

A Gospel perspective naturally flows into Gospel prayers, because it’s not a philosophy it’s active and alive. Be greedy about prayer, take it when it’s offered and make Gospel prayers a lifestyle.

Gospel People (Verses 5-6)

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone”

“God has called us to unity not uniformity”. In the Body of Christ we are all different but similar, the similarity for us is Jesus. Starting in verse 7 and through the remainder of the chapter, Paul will list several people. One is a *Doctor* (Luke), another is a *slave* and yet another is a house *pastor*. They were all different but the Gospel of Jesus was their commonality that brought unity and a clear perspective.

Gospel Purpose (Verses 3, 18)

³ *“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains”*

¹⁸ *“I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you”*

18 "I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you"

“Remember my chains”, was an important statement because Paul wasn’t asking for a change of circumstances but pointed toward the purpose of his life...sharing the Gospel. Paul’s hope and desire is *not* that he would get out or that he be released, but that the Gospel would be released and change the world.

An example of the Gospel being released below is just one example of a historical chain of people that had a “Gospel Perspective”:



Edward Kimball was an unassuming person who worked with Kids and youth. He was determined to win his Sunday school class to Christ. A teenager named Dwight Moody was in this class who heard the Gospel and came to faith in Christ.



Dwight L. Moody settled in Chicago and initiated many evangelistic efforts. After one of his meetings he met with a young man, *Wilbur Chapman* and confirmed his salvation in Christ.

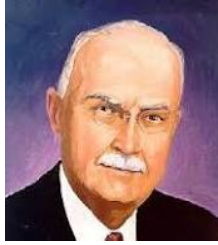


Wilbur Chapman would become an evangelist who would preach in many countries. In one of those meetings a professional baseball player named *Billy Sunday* would hear and accept the Gospel.



Billy Sunday was a very animated and unusual Evangelist for his time. Along with other things his vocabulary was rough, but he reached people

Billy Sunday was a very animated and unusual Evangelist for his time. Along with other things his vocabulary was rough, but he reached people that no one else would, specifically men. *Mordecai Ham* would partner with Sunday's ministry preaching the Gospel.



Mordecai Ham became an evangelist and in 1934 a resistant young man named *Billy Graham* came to Christ.



Most of us know who Billy Graham is. It is very difficult to know how many people these men touched with the Gospel over this time period. However it is estimated that Billy Graham has reached 2.2 billion people over his ministry years.

We have been challenged to have a *Gospel perspective*, that is active and will which will trigger *Gospel Prayers*. Our passage challenges us to be *Gospel people*, with a life long *Gospel purpose*.

Discussion Questions

- 1) How would you describe the phrase “Gospel Perspective” to someone? What does it mean that this perspective is *active* and in a practical way how are we “Ambassadors for Christ”?
- 2) Ezra suggested that a Gospel Perspective would activate “Gospel Prayers”. How would you describe this and how do we make Gospel Prayers a lifestyle?
- 3) What does this quote mean to you: “God has called us to unity not uniformity”? Also in your own words what does it mean to be Gospel People?
- 4) On page 3 of your notes Ezra spoke to us about “Gospel Purpose”. As you review verses 3 and 18, what do we learn about Paul in prison and his purpose? Also did this challenge anything in your own life concerning your purpose?
- 5) As you look at the historical chain shown above what did you observe or discover? Lastly have you thought about the influence your life may have on others, directly or indirectly?

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