

Monday Night Discipleship 2.2b

I. Discussion of Ch. 2 “Back to Basics”

A. The opening quotation reads “Bible study won’t necessarily change your life.”¹

What is his argument?

1. Knowledge about the Bible does not equate to life- transformation because “it is possible to know the Scriptures, read the Scriptures, revere the Scriptures, and study the Scriptures and still miss the point entirely.”²
2. What examples does he use?
 - a) **The academic scholar**- knows the Greek, can quote sections of it, able to define terms/concepts effortlessly, but many do not believe in the Biblical Jesus. The Bible is simply an artifact, a fairy tale that is disconnected from the present.
 - b) **First Century Jewish leaders** - knew the Scriptures better than any man, but missed all the signs pointing to Jesus. Jesus himself mourned this fact (John 5:39-40).
 - c) **Misguided prophets**- knows of the prophecies of Revelation; makes thrilled attempts to find modern fulfilments of these prophecies to understand the return of Christ.
 - d) **Theological debaters**- knows which Bible topics are heavily debated, studies Scripture for more ammunition for upcoming debates.

B. How does this argument affect a church’s discipleship?

1. We must not allow our classrooms, our sermons, our studies, to feed any one of these examples. It’s not simply an artifact of study, not a justification for tradition, not a checklist for the end-times, and not more ammunition to win a debate.
2. The way that the Bible is communicated must place Christ at the center, not man. It is not a divine reference book, it’s not a manual for success in life, and it’s not a map to get to heaven when we die; it is God’s divine revelation of Himself that leads us to glory in the work of Christ. “The point is Jesus.”³

C. What stands out to you in the quote from Hershel Hobbs (p.23)? Why?

1. He was a beloved Southern Baptist who chaired the committee that produced the 1963 version of the Baptist Faith and Message (the statement of faith for SB denomination).

¹ Trevin Wax, *Gospel-Centered Teaching: Showing Christ in All the Scripture* (Nashville, Tennessee: B&H Publishing Group, 2013), 19.

² Wax, 19.

³ Wax, 21.

2. Personally, I like the part, “Forward, backward, forward. Everywhere you turn, there is Christ.”⁴ because it reminds me of Spurgeon’s quote, “Now, from every text in the Bible, there is a road to Jesus Christ [...] There is a road from here to Jesus Christ, and I mean to keep on His track till I get to Him.”⁵

D. **What is the purpose of a Bible study?**

1. To know God and make Him known.
2. Only this form of Bible study is life-changing.

E. **What kind of depth should we pursue in our studies and why?**

1. “The kind of depth that grounds us in the richness of the gospel.”⁶

F. Why should our teaching take us back to the gospel?

1. **Because the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.**⁷

- a) **What is his argument?** God’s gospel is powerful to save because it’s His Spirit working through His Word.

b) **Why is this necessary?**

- (1) People are not saved through our teaching skills
- (2) People are not saved through our ability to convince others
- (3) Teachers, believers, need to understand our neediness/dependance on His Spirit’s work to produce fruit in our studies.

2. **Because the gospel is the power of God for sanctification.**⁸

a) **What is his argument?**

- (1) God’s gospel grows believers in holiness and conforms them into Christlikeness.⁹

b) **Why is this necessary?**

⁴ Wax, 23 in reference to Herschel H. Hobbs, *The Baptist Faith and Message*, Rev. Ed. (Nashville: Lifeway Church Resources, 2002), 22-24, 35.

⁵ Charles Spurgeon, *The Soul Winner*.

⁶ Wax, 24.

⁷ Wax, 26-30.

⁸ Wax, 31-33.

⁹ Wax, 31.

- (1) The gospel is for all believers, new believers all the way to mature believers. It is what gives “richness and profundity to all our study of the Bible.”¹⁰
- (2) 1 Cor. 15:2- it doesn’t just save, it also sustains believers.
- (3) “The gospel-centered teacher understands that the unsaved need the gospel in order to come to know Christ, while the saved need the gospel in order to become more like Christ.”¹¹

3. Because the gospel provides the motivation for mission.¹²

a) What is his argument?

- (1) God’s gospel grows believers in their mission from God. It’s not outward activities that provide the solution to missional apathy, it is developing the inward reality (the missional focus of the gospel message for every believer)

b) Why is this necessary?

- (1) When there is a lack of participation for missional outreach, the church often runs to more activities, or more elaborate methods to excite people; rather than confront the root problem. Many believers in the church lose their gospel-focus.

G. What are the common responses to the question, “what is the gospel?”

1. It is a message presented to non-believers. Ie- Romans Road, Evangicube, Evangel-bracelet, and other gospel presentations for evangelism
2. It is the story of Jesus found in the New Testament. The gospel is Jesus and what He has done in the narratives of Scripture.
3. It is the coming kingdom of God. It is the need to be a part of the church in preparation for His return.

H. Why should we not pit them against each other?

1. All are evidenced in Scripture.¹³

I. How does the author present the gospel?

- a. The Gospel proper (The announcement)

¹⁰ Wax, 31.

¹¹ Wax, 33.

¹² Wax, 34-35.

¹³ Wax, 38.

- i. The announcement of Christ, who He is, what He has done, and man's response.
 - b. The Gospel's context (the story of Scripture)
 - i. The context of the gospel from creation to new creation: Starting from creation, explaining man's sin, God's rescue plan (Israel), the Law, Jesus's fulfillment of the Law in our place, the promise of Jesus's return.
 - c. The Gospel's purpose (The community)
 - i. The purpose of the gospel is to bring God's people together in community, God's church. His church has a mission to display the gospel and proclaim it.
- 1. **How does it compare to the Ontological divide? ...5-fold gospel?**
 - a) Similar because it covers the major points with a different presentation.
 - b) Different- it delineates the sections in a different order.
- 2. **How should this connect to our discipleship?**
 - a) We shouldn't just tack it on at the end of our lessons, sermons. There should be a sense, that everything that we discuss finds root in the gospel message.

J. What are the three major questions teachers should ask themselves in order to maintain gospel-centrality?¹⁴

- 1. How does this topic/passage fit into the big story of Scripture?**
- 2. What is distinctively Christian about the way I am addressing the topic/passage? (Would this be true if Jesus hadn't died and been raised?)**
- 3. How does this truth equip God's church to live on mission?**

II. **Practice-** In pairs (or groups of 2-3).

15 mins- sharing

5 mins- evaluating

Five-fold Gospel Story: The Gospel is God's story. We can break it up into five sections: 1) Creation, 2) Sin, 3) Promise, 4) Jesus, and 5) the Church.

A. **What is the breakdown?**

1. **Creation:** In the very beginning, nothing existed except God. God is Holy, He was never created, and He is love. Out of the overflow of His love, God created everything, including the first man and first woman, Adam

¹⁴ Wax 42-43. All three questions are in bold and will come from this source unless otherwise specified.

and Eve. They were created to know and enjoy God's perfect love forever by trusting God's goodness, and obeying His word of instruction. In this very good beginning, Adam and Eve enjoyed a right relationship with God.

2. **Sin:** But instead of loving God, instead of trusting and obeying Him; they doubted God's goodness and disobeyed His good word. This is called sin, and this is what broke the good relationship between God and humanity. Sin both enslaves humanity, and makes us guilty before God. On their own, there was nothing that man could ever do to make their relationship with God right again.
3. **Promise:** God made a promise to Adam and Eve that one of their descendants would make a way that would rescue them from their sin. For many many years, humanity long awaited their hero to arrive.
4. **Jesus:** The hero of God's story is Jesus. Jesus, who is fully man, and fully God, came and took the punishment humanity deserved for their sin and died in their place. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead which displayed His power over death and His power to give new life. This new life is for anyone who repents and believes in Him, and they will be in right relationship with Him forever.
5. **The Church:** After Jesus resurrected from the dead, he spent 40 days instructing His followers about His plan to spread the good news, the gospel. First, He was going to give them His Spirit. Secondly, He gave them a mission. And thirdly, He gave them another promise. His Spirit was given, the church was born, the mission began and His promise was fulfilled. Today, *anyone* that repents and believes in Jesus is added to the church, God's family, and shares in the mission to spread the gospel to all peoples of the earth; so that they too will believe in Jesus and be in right relationship before God.

B. How do I use it?

1. Study and outline the five-fold gospel presentation on another sheet of paper. The goal is to commit this to memory. Perhaps a bulleted list, or a skeletal outline, would be helpful. Others might prefer writing out the five-fold gospel presentation several times to commit it to memory.
2. Practice sharing the five-fold gospel presentation in order to sharpen your delivery skills. Practicing in front of the mirror, or recording yourself sharing the presentation, will allow you to see and self-assess your delivery. When you're ready, sharing it with others will also allow you to see if you covered the main points and it will allow others to give other helpful feedback.