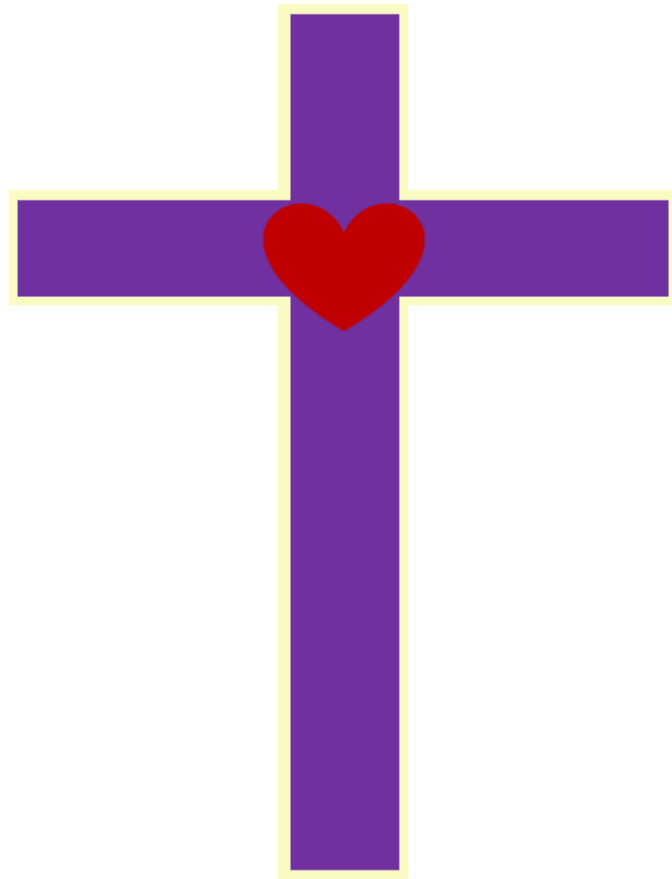


The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#1
Design
Proverbs 29:18



1 Design

INTRO:

What in the world is going on? **Seriously**... have you ever wondered, what in the world is going on? **Literally**... when you look around, regardless of where you live, when you consider everything that has come before you, everything that is going on around you, everything that is happening in you, and everything that will be coming to you or at you in the future, do you have a reliable, a proven, a trustworthy grasp on reality... and all of reality's past, present, and future extremes?

To press those questions even further, do you realize just how important it is that you do understand what is happening – what is, was, and will be, reality? Have you thought about the impact and implications of there being a Creator that is in sovereign control of His creation? Have you been blessed to realize that the universe is not the byproduct of random chaos or some inexplicable, fairytale or explosion? Never forget, there is no creation without a Creator! There is no story to share without an Author, and there can be no “bang” without The “Bang-Maker!” To that end, have you been enlightened and uplifted to learn that the God of the Bible has a proven track record and an unfolding plan? Moreover, have you been humbled by the fact that none of us are in control – not even close? In short, do you have a holy and holistic perspective, along with a biblical and prophetic vision of reality's One divine design and eternal Designer?

Have you ever considered the reality and role of a worldview? What is your worldview? In other words, how do you view, in an all-encompassing and defining way, all of creation in its broadest context? Does God's Word, The Holy Bible, determine how you see and understand the world and all of its realities (which would constitute a "biblical worldview")... or does the world determine how you see and understand God and His Word (along with everything in creation)?

*Trust the past to God's mercy,
the present to God's love, and the future to God's providence.
- Augustine*

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your divine design. Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. Please LORD, help us to grow in our love of You, Your Gospel, and an authentic, biblical worldview. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

The Bible begins with the beginning... and so will we. For starters, it is important to note that the Bible does not just begin "at" the beginning, but rather, the Bible, God's Holy Word, begins "with" the beginning.

"In the beginning, God created..." - Genesis 1:1a

We can see in these opening, informative, and authoritative words, BEFORE ANYTHING that is or was created ever came to be, the God of the Bible was (and is) eternal. We are further blessed to know, per God's Word, that our Creator is also our holy, triune, relational and redeeming, gracious and merciful, Christ (John 1:1). He is the Great I AM... the unique, uncreated, ever-present, all-knowing, all-loving, and all-powerful Divine. Consequently, in a macro and missional sense, our context for this opening lesson includes (and biblically defines) ALL of reality – past, present, & future.

Micro

Whereas this lesson's macro context focuses on the mind-stretching realities of our Creator, creation, and Christ; the micro context concentrates on, and helps us to better understand, the more manageable concepts embedded in the Lord's divine design for Christianity, church, and Christ-like living. To that end, God's Old Testament remnant and New Testament family have always been saved by the same biblical Gospel. To and through THE Gospel, God's people served, and continue to serve, as worshipping witnesses (Genesis 45:7; Acts 1:8) and as living proof to the reality of Creator Christ. As such, biblical believers also attest to the divine design, sovereign grace, and perfect holiness of creation's only true and living, eternal Designer.

Message

It is eternally critical, given the reality of heaven and hell, (the only two final destinations available to human beings), that we hear and heed our sovereign Creator's authoritative "truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15); especially when it comes to learning, loving, and living out His divine design. With that in mind, knowing it is, for all practical purposes, impossible to BE and believe what we cannot see and perceive; let us press into the proverbial roots, fruits, and boots of God's biblical-mission, victorious-vision, and divine design.

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

- Corrie Ten Boom

BIG IDEA: God's Word, will, and ways reveal, refine, and reinforce the roots, fruits, and boots of His Gospel's divine design.

PREVIEW:

1. God's divine design has ROOTS
2. God's divine design has FRUITS
3. God's divine design has BOOTS

TEXT: Proverbs 29:18
***Where there is no prophetic vision
the people cast off restraint,
but blessed is he who keeps the law.***

1. God's divine design has ROOTS

Illustration

Have you ever been on a journey or a road trip and lost your way? I was recently driving through New York City when my new mapping app proved to be less than trustworthy. In an incredibly frustrating way and with unimaginably bad timing, it seemed as if every time I came to a new fork in the road, I heard the mapping software say: "recalculating." As a result, without clear instructions, in the moment, I was forced to guess and make many decisions without proper insights or guidance. In the end, it is no surprise, I lost my way. Worse yet, in the combination of my confusion and the city's chaos, I ultimately found myself driving through some very dangerous areas. Moreover, after being lost, recognizing the danger I subsequently encountered, and losing a significant amount of valuable time, I realized how important it was to only use truly trustworthy maps and mapping providers.

In a very real and similar sense, Creator God has made it clear that we all need His trustworthy map, and... we should only believe His biblically-accurate mapping providers. To be clear, in a macro sense, God's map is His Word, the Holy Bible... and His mapping providers are His miraculously transformed, missionally committed shepherds. On a more micro scale, His maps come in the form of biblical "truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), "prophetic visions" (Proverbs 29:18), and God honoring instruction (1 Timothy 4:16), while His mapping providers are His faithfully obedient sheep.

One final connection worth noting, while the parallels above are significant, the contrast in the negative consequences is striking. To be biblically lovingly and missionally clear, unlike my extra, short-lived time in New York, those who stay lost without God's map will never make it home... but instead, they will spend a conscious eternity in a torturous hell (Revelation 14:10-11).

Remember, while God's Word is not always warm and fuzzy, it is always right and righteous... accurate and authoritative.

The very word authority has within it the word author. An author is someone who creates and possesses a particular work. Insofar as God is the foundation of all authority, He exercises that foundation because He is the author and the owner of His creation. He is the foundation upon which all other authority stands or falls.

- RC Sproul

Explanation

Where there is no prophetic vision

a. **Perfect Veracity** – The first thing we need to know about God’s divine design is that it is not only true, it is Truth! (John 14:6) To be sure, God’s sovereign plan is rooted in perfect, absolute, and eternally authoritative Truth! Should questions, doubts, or conflicting opinions ever arise, consult and submit to 2nd Timothy 3:16-17, which boldly declares the perfect veracity of God’s Word, His inspired Scriptures, when it comes to any and all aspects of His divine design.

b. **Prophetic Vision** – Prophetic vision has two components... the “prophetic,” that which God has spoken with the intention of having it shared, and the “vision,” the proper grasp and understanding of God’s message and meaning. With that said, as noted above, the Bible, God’s Word, His inspired, breathed-out insights and instructions for humanity, serves as BOTH, that which is desperately needed (Proverbs 29:18), AND simultaneously, it serves as our primary source of prophetic vision.

As we walk through the Come And See Christianity progressive curriculum, we will unpack God’s prophetic vision in steps and stages (also known as The FLOW), hoping to help each reader to grow in their comprehensive understanding and Christ-likeness. For now, we will summarize God’s gospel design with a couple descriptions that will be explained in greater depth in future lessons.

1. *m M m* = Per Ephesians 2:1-10, very human needs a death defying miracle (m), a gracious gift from the Bible’s MESSIAH (M). Once a person is born again and miraculously transformed (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), they will love and live as the Messiah’s missionaries (m).
2. *The FACTS (5 C’s)*
 - a. Creation – Creator Christ created ALL things in creation
 - b. Corruption – Sin entered creation and corrupted everything
 - c. Christ – Christ was/is the promised Cure for all corruption
 - d. Church – Christ is building His Church of missionaries
 - e. Coming back – Christ is coming back to judge the world

c. **Promised Victory** – God’s Word details the beginning, the middle, and the end of God’s divine design (Genesis 1:1 & John 1:1 followed by Genesis 3:15 & John 3:16). It is important to note that while “the middle” has proven to be messy (and promises to stay that way), for the elect (Ephesians 1:5; Matthew 24:31; 1 Thessalonians 1:4), the eternal war has already been won! Praise God, when Jesus cried out from the cross: “It is finished!” the Christian’s victory was eternally secured. God’s promises are our guarantees!

Application

Roots, like foundations, are essential for healthy growth and fruitful, trustworthy building. In light of this truth, press into God's Word to see what He has to say about Himself, His Word, His will, and His way(s). Seek out biblical insights and instructions that will help you to better understand God's divine design. Pray and ask the Lord to connect you to a disciple-maker that will help you to grow toward or in Christ. Look for brief, quick, summary tools that can give you immediate encouragement and support (ie. The BRIDGE Manifesto or Stickman Gospel... see the lesson addendum). At the same time, invest yourself in the understudy of Scripture and deeper, heart-strengthening, courage-testing, life-stretching exercises of faithful obedience. God's divine design is that His disciples will learn to love and live ALL-in, fully committed lives in and for Christ!

2. God's divine design has FRUITS

Illustration

Have you ever seen something so ugly that it becomes cute in a pitiful sort of way? Sometimes it is a sad faced, big-eyed puppy. Other times it could be a child's art project or their heartwarming attempt to dress themselves for the first time... My pitifully cute memory goes back to the first Christmas tree that my wife & I picked out together. It was Christmas Eve night, just as the roadside vendor was about to shut down, with only a handful of ugly options left on the lot, we chose a short, sickly, stick-like tree that was so ugly that the man in charge looked at us... laughed... and said, "Just take it... and Merry Christmas."

In God's divine design, ever since corruption crept into creation, humanity has become the sad, the pitiful, and the ugly. As sinful human beings, we are the sickly that need to be chosen, paid for, and taken home. That's the bad news. The good news is that by grace, through faith, when we abide in Christ vs. casting off restraint, we can be filled with His Spirit and bear much joy-filled, inspiring, and beautiful fruit.

*You weren't an accident. You weren't mass produced.
You aren't an assembly-line product. You were deliberately planned,
specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on the Earth
by the Master Craftsman.*

- Max Lucado

Explanation

the people cast off restraint / perish

- a. **Abide** - God's design is that His people will abide in Christ (John 15:4). By contrast, those who "cast off restraint" and choose not to abide in Creator Christ "can do nothing" eternally fruitful (John 15:5). Worse yet, those who cast off restraint and disengage from the Lord will be like dead branches that bear no fruit and eventually get gathered together and thrown into the fire. Even more, Jesus was emphatic and absolutely clear on this eternal contrast: abide in life or cast off into death.
- b. **Obey** - God's design is that His people will obey, which is the foundational proof of their justification, love, and abiding fruit. (John 3:36; 14:15; & 15:6). In our current context, obeying is the evidence of abiding, in the same way that abiding is the means of obeying (Acts 1:8). Beware of the dangers that come with any and all forms of disobedience... Many church-goers have "drifted off" before they chose to "cast off" or "blast off" the promises, purposes, & power of God's Word, will, & ways.
- c. **Bear Much Fruit** - God's design is that His people will, by His grace and for His glory, bear much fruit (John 15:2-3, 8-12). Here again, the Bible is filled with examples and exhortations that drive this point home (cf. the Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30). More directly, Jesus repeatedly reminded all Christians of both their privilege and their responsibility, their commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and their commanded roles (John 20:21) as fruit inspectors (John 7:24) and exponential fruit producers (Mark 16:15).

Application

In our culture, it's not uncommon to hear the older generations encourage young people to "stay in school," knowing education is often a pathway to opportunity and prosperity. In a similar but far more important and impactful context that goes farther than merely quitting school, God and His Word warn us of the eternal dangers that come with casting off restraint, disobeying our Creator, and living fruitless lives. In response, we need to press into the LORD when others choose to pull away. Moreover, we need to abide, obey, and repeat when it comes to God's Word, will, and ways. In so doing, by the grace of the Almighty King of kings and LORD of lords, we will then know the blessing of BE-ing Christ's miraculous, ministers of reconciliation and righteous ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Thus, healthy Christians seek to BE and bear God's biblical fruit (Galatians 5:22-23).

3. God's divine design has BOOTS

Illustration

I recently learned of an incredible encounter and near tragic experience that involved a small airplane, a weary traveler, and an exceptional air traffic controller. In short, the plane's pilot passed out in mid-flight and the traveler, having zero experience flying a plane, found himself in one of the most dangerous, nightmarish circumstances one could imagine. But... there was a difference-maker, a helper, an expert with everything that was needed to get that plane, its passed out pilot, and the weary traveler safely on the ground. To that end, when the desperate traveler got on the radio and cried out for help, an air traffic controller reportedly said to the hopeless passenger: "Listen to me and follow my instructions... if you do, I will get you home safely... if you do not... if you succumb to your fear, if you do not pay attention, or if you trust and follow your senses, you will crash and die."

The impact and parallel from this true account can be seen in the fact that the great voice in the sky, the caring air traffic controller, did exactly what he promised. He walked with the weary traveler from death's doorstep, all the way to his boldly promised, life-saving landing. And so it is, on an unimaginably larger scale, with the relationship between our Creator and His biblical Church, the true Body of Christ... those who are, metaphorically speaking, His miraculous and missional "Boots" on the ground. As we will see, in the Lord's divine design, there is a uniquely peculiar people who have been supernaturally set apart and Spirit filled for the express purpose of glorifying Creator Christ. By God's saving grace, His "Boots" live loving lives of faithful and fruitful obedience on their journey home from here to heaven.

Explanation

but blessed is he who keeps the law.

- a. **Faithfully Contrast** - One of the most Christ-like characteristics of true biblical Christians, also known as the kingdom's "Boots," is their contrast. As we will see, when God's design is biblically in view and fully embraced, His "Bride," His "Body," His "Boots" stand out in stark contrast to the world and its norms (Ephesians 2:1-3).
 - i. God's Boots are no longer dead in their sins.
 - ii. God's Boots are now alive in Christ.
 - iii. God's Boots now counter the world and its ways.
 - iv. God's Boots no longer follow Satan as their leader.
 - v. God's Boots are no longer children of disobedience.
 - vi. God's Boots are no longer children of wrath.
 - vii. God's Boots no longer follow their fleshly desires/passions.
 - viii. God's Boots are "no longer like the rest of mankind."

- b. **Faithfully Blessed** - In the same way that the weary traveler above was crash-bound and hopeless unless outside intervention came, so it is with humanity. Those who are biblically “blessed” are always (and only) blessed by the loving grace and mercy of Creator Christ, as evidenced and experienced through His divine interventions.

Highlighting the blessing of this truth in love, Ephesians 2:4-7 begins with the words: “but God,” and then continues on to describe how the family of God, His “Boots,” is blessed beyond measure; how the Church is miraculously and missionally, immediately and eternally blessed... all through the amazing grace and unmerited mercy of the God of the Bible.

To prove the point, Jesus brought the contrasting and blessing of His “Boots” to light in His Sermon On The Mount. In the opening of what many consider to be Christ’s most prolific preaching and teaching, we find Him outlining what is widely referred to as “The Beatitudes.” Here, in Matthew 5:3-12, Jesus literally declares and promises that His faithful and fruit-filled followers will be blessed, to the extent that they contrast culture and embrace His very specific description of Christ-likeness:

The Beatitudes

3“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Note that God’s divine design has never changed. Moreover, His people have always been the recipients of His greatest graces, while simultaneously serving as His greatest glorifiers.

c. **Faithfully Obedient** - Those who “keep the law” are also known as the obedient children of God (1 Peter 1:14), the “aroma of Christ” (2 Corinthians 2:15), those whose faith is authentic (James 2:17), and biblical believers who “have (eternal) life” (John 3:36).

At the same time, it is critically and theologically essential to see and believe another defining attribute that unifies God’s design for His faithfully obedient “Boots,” namely, their shared embrace of The Gospel, complete with its biblical explanation and application of grace, faith, and works.

With that being said, Ephesians 2:1-10 is arguably the most helpful and direct, summarized explanation of God’s divine design in all the Bible. Here we see that any and all “Boots,” in the working and worshipping family of God, receive their adoption by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone, and per the Word of God alone. Furthermore, as noted in verses 1-3, every Christian was, before being rescued by Christ’s intervening and redeeming grace (v.8), a dead in sin, child of wrath. Consequently, a miracle of saving grace is the only way any person can become an authentic, adopted, born again, child of God.

Similarly, biblical faith, which is itself a gift of biblical grace, must also be understood and applied according to God’s divine design. In that regard, the Scriptures are crystal clear. Again, Christians are saved by grace alone, through faith alone (vv.8-9)... faith in the Person, promises, performances, and power of Jesus The Christ (John 14:6).

Lastly, in terms of faithful obedience and its weaving together of grace, faith, and works, let us take a closer look at this relationship because it tends to tragically confuse and sinfully corrupt many church-goers. The challenge at hand is our need to have and hold a healthy understanding of “works.” In short, the Bible teaches (and The Gospel requires) that validating works will be the fruit, as opposed to the cause, of one’s justification. There is an eternal “cause and effect” lesson to be learned here. More specifically, grace is the cause of biblical works and biblical works are the fruit and outflowing evidence that biblical grace has taken root in believer’s heart. By contrast, when human works are thought to bring about God’s grace, that mindset rejects true grace and attempts to redefine it with compensation. This seemingly small variation is actually an eternal one – it contrasts the one true gospel with a popular false-gospel that has led far too many souls into hell.

In closing this section, reader beware. Remember 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and trust the tensions that come with God’s truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), no matter what! In this case, when it comes to the DNA of The Gospel, the serving Christian is not saved by their works, and at the same time, by grace through faith, every Christian is saved for God’s good works (v.10).

Application

Many people are surprised to learn that God's first declared blessing upon humanity came in the form of a command to work, to "be fruitful and multiply" as divine image bearers (Genesis 1:28). That being said, it should come as no surprise that there is much confusion surrounding the question of who really is in the family of God. In today's cultural church, even amongst those who claim to be evangelical (gospel anchored and missionally directed), there is widespread rejection of the practical implications and theological applications of Ephesians 2:1-10 (as well as other essential core doctrines that define God's divine design).

In response, as the "Boots" of the kingdom, the King's army, the Christ's ambassadors, and as the very aroma of the living God, let us live lives worthy of The Gospel (Philippians 1:27). Let us live in the full armor of God, knowing that spiritual warfare abounds (Ephesians 6:10-20). Let us BE the Church that Christ died to give life to... all by His grace, all through His gospel, and all for His glory. Amen & Amen

*God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.
- Augustine*

REVIEW:

First and foremost, God's divine design is centered on THE Gospel ("good news") of Jesus, The Christ! In a broader sense, all people everywhere need to learn, love, and live by a biblical worldview.

CLOSE:

For What? Why did God include this passage & point in the Bible?

Not only is Creator God powerful, sovereign, gracious, and merciful, but He is also personal and relational. In His unfathomable love, the God who is "the Word" (John 1:1), the God who communicates with His people (Hebrews 1:1), the God who shares His authority with His ambassadors (Matthew 28:18-19; Titus 2:15) has chosen to communicate His divine design to the world as a warning... while at the same time, sharing with His worshipping workers and warriors, in the same way that a master-builder shares his blueprints with his construction crew, and/or in the way that a military officer inspires the confidence of his soldiers... by equipping them with a proven blueprint or battle plans.

So What? What difference does this passage & point make in God's kingdom?

Think about it this way... What difference does a map make on a road trip? What difference does a blueprint make in the construction of a skyscraper? What difference does a battle plan make on the battlefield? You can also think about it this way... What difference does a law make in a courtroom? What difference does a contract make in a dispute over difficult or contested negotiations?

The fact that God has given us authoritative access and comprehensive clarification pertaining to His divine design, allows us to have confidence and understanding when it comes to every aspect of creation. In short, we see what others miss, we have context where others have ignorance, and lastly, we are in-line with God's authority when others decline into anarchy.

Now What?

In Luke 12:48 Jesus said: "of those to whom much has been given, much will be expected." You should take that verse and its exhortation personally, recognizing that in this lesson you have been given much... At the very least, you have been offered an introductory explanation and potential understanding of God's divine design. Now, much is expected from you. It is time for you to seek to bring God glory, by first being a God-glorifier, and then finding and growing more glorifiers - no more, no less, no matter what!

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word. Please help us to embrace the grace with which You have blessed us today. Help us to be the multiplying glorifiers and miraculous missionaries that Your crucifixion and resurrection empowered Your holy and healthy Church to BE. We long to serve You and Your kingdom as the Acts 1:8 family that Your Spirit is empowering. May our lives reflect and extend your love & light to the world.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Related SERMON:

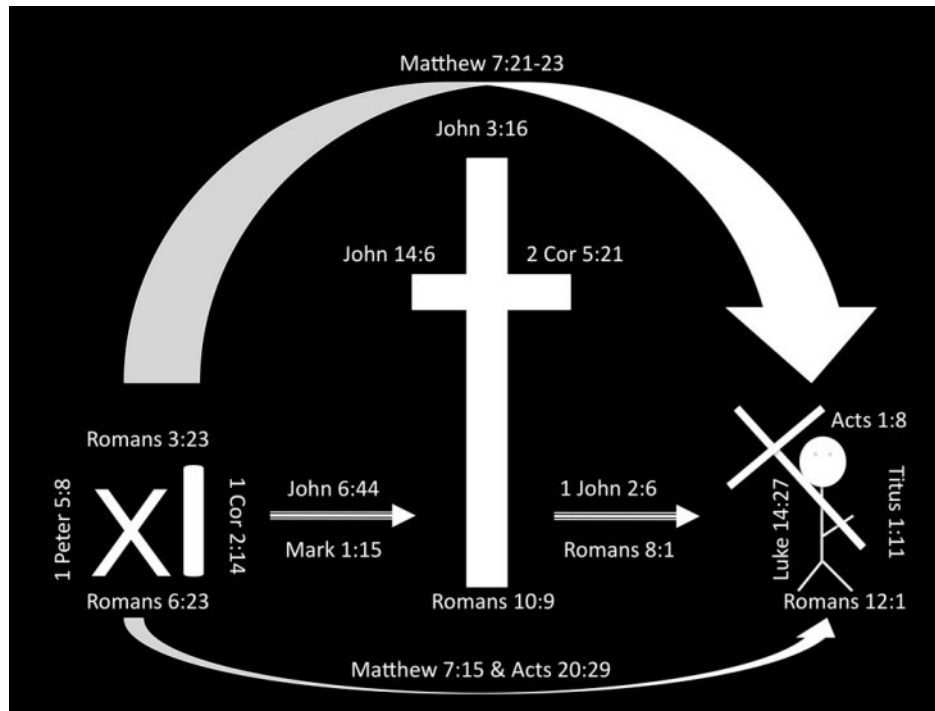
"Gospel Gardening Is Acts 1:8 In Action"

Proverbs 29:18

January 5, 2020

Sermon Series: Gospel Gardening

ADDENDUM



STICKMAN GOSPEL

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, rebuking, for correction, and training in righteousness - 2 Timothy 3:16

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & the Son & the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you... - Matthew 28:19ff

Default

Romans 3:23 = "For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23 = "...the wages of sin is DEATH, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"

1 Peter 5:8 = *Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.*

1 Corinthians 2:14 = *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:4)*

Dependence

John 6:44 = "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."

Mark 1:15 = *(Jesus... proclaiming the gospel of God), and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*

Delivered

John 3:16 = *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

John 14:6 = "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me."

2 Corinthians 5:21 = *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*** **2 Corinthians 5:17** = *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Romans 10:9 = "If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Deceived

Matthew 7:21-23 = "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22**Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' **23**Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

*** **Mark 12:30** = *you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*

Deceivers

Matthew 7:15 = "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

Acts 20:29 = *I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.*

Deliberate

1 John 2:6 = *The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.*

Romans 8:1 = *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

*** **2 Timothy 2:2** = *what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

Discipleship

Luke 14:27 = *Whoever does not carry his own cross & come after Me cannot be My disciple.*

Acts 1:8 = *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Romans 12:1 = *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship.*

Titus 1:11 = *They must be silenced, because they are turning whole families away from the truth by their false teaching.*

*** **Ephesians 6:13** = *Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.*



One FAITH. One FAMILY. One FOCUS.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally).” – Acts 1:8

One Question: *WHAT DO YOU WANT?*

One Offer: *COME AND SEE.*

One Promise: *TRUTH IN LOVE!*

Our Truth-in-Love Distinctives: We are...

- 1.** Responding to grace & repenting of sin...
- 2.** Trusting the Bible & obeying God’s Word...
- 3.** Growing in-Christ & living Spirit-led...
- 4.** Praying for guidance & following by faith...
- 5.** Dying to self & carrying our cross...
- 6.** BE-ing the Church & loving one another...(*truly loving* one another)
- 7.** Equipping the saints & exemplifying supernatural unity...
- 8.** Ministering as ambassadors & discerning matters shrewdly...
- 9.** Worshipping God vertically & experiencing Him horizontally...
- 10.** Proclaiming the Gospel (*no matter what*) & fishing for men...
- 11.** Making disciples-warriors & winning spiritual-warfare...
- 12.** Loving our King & serving His kingdom!