

STUDY QUESTIONS CONT'D

9. How should we treat others that are dealing with a sin issue in their life?
10. How can we have victory over sin in this life?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The Gospel, or good news, of Jesus Christ is that He did what no one could ever do. You see, God loves us, but ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God, every human being has sinned and therefore cannot come into God’s presence because He is holy and perfect. As much as we try, we cannot bridge the gap to God because of our sinful nature. We can never be good enough to reach God. Good works, religion, philosophy and morality all fall short of God’s perfection.

God loves us so much that He sent His Own Son, Jesus Christ, to bridge the gap (John 3:16). Jesus did what no one else could ever do, because He is both God and human, born to Mary. He took upon Himself the punishment we deserve, dying on the cross in our place. Now, through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we can come before a holy God. That is the good news! We enter a relationship with Jesus by placing our faith and trust in Him and Him alone for our salvation. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

The good news doesn’t end there. Not only can we have eternal life through Jesus, but we also now can live without being condemned because of sin. Jesus paid the price for our sins, and He lives within those who have placed their trust in Him. In Christ, not only have we secured our future in eternity with God, but we have the Holy Spirit living in us to help us today to live for Christ. For more information on how to know God, check our website at www.gbcmilescity.com.



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Small Group Study Guide
Pastor Jerry Coon – December 17, 2017

SERMON NOTES

Why Christmas?

Romans 3:22-23

²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Rom. 3:22-23)

What about the gap between what is and what ought to be?

1. We must not lower God’s standards to fit where we are.
2. We must not turn inward with self-hate. (*Eph. 5:29*) **“For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it...”**
3. We must not try to make it happen by sheer willpower.

What should we do?

1. Recognize that you are a work in progress.

(2 Cor. 12:9) “My strength is made perfect in weakness”

(2 Cor. 4:7) “But we have the treasure in earth vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

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SERMON NOTES

1. Keep pressing on.

(Phil. 3:12-14) ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2. Keep your eye on the goal.

*(Hebr. 12:2) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our **faith**...*
(1 Jn. 3:2) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(Jn. 3:1) Message translation – **“What marvelous love the Father has extended to us!**

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. If someone asked you why we celebrate Christmas, what would you tell them?
2. What would a world without sin look like?
3. In what ways **do we try to lower God's standards?**
4. What is wrong with trying to stop sinning by our own willpower?
5. Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross. Why, then, do we continue to sin in this life?
6. When will we reach the goal in dealing with our sin?
7. By not bringing immediate judgment when we sin, how does **that speak of God's love for us?**
8. How does God want Christians to do when they sin?

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