

Quarter One: Uniting Heaven & Earth: Christ in Philippians & Colossians

Jill Morikone

Lesson 9—Reconciliation and Hope

Thursday: Power of the Gospel

February 26, 2026

- **Last Week:** “The Preeminence of Christ”
 - Col 1:15 – 20 – Paul’s hymn celebrating the centrality, importance, & preeminence of Christ
- **This Week:** “Reconciliation and Hope”
 - Col 1:21 – 29 (next week = Col 2)
 - Individual reconciliation with God through Jesus’ death on the Cross
 - The simplicity & power of the gospel
 - Understanding the Word, as opposed to being deceived by false teachers

Memory Text: “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor 5:21).

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Reconciled from Wicked Works (James)
 - Col 1:21, 22 – the beauty & simplicity of the gospel: 1. We are sinners & Christ died for us; 2. We repent & accept His forgiveness & righteousness by faith & are instantly justified; 3. We live as Christians through Christ living in us (sanctification by faith)
- 2. **Monday:** If You Continue in the Faith (Ryan)
 - Col 1:23 – caution against once saved, always saved; call to hold to salvation in Christ, not human-based salvation
- 3. **Tuesday:** God’s Eternal Plan (SQ)
 - Col 1:24, 25 – God’s plan for Paul & the gospel & the Christian believers; suffering is not the end; God is still at work
- 4. **Wednesday:** Mystery of God Revealed (John D)
 - Col 1:26, 27 – the mystery of the gospel, the plan of salvation, revealed in the life, death & resurrection of Jesus, as it can be given to the Gentiles, as well
- 5. **Thursday:** Power of the Gospel (Jill)
 - Col 1:28, 29 – the power of the gospel to change our lives & enable us to grow & mature; trusting God’s Word & discerning false teachers / teachings

Thursday: Power of the Gospel

Col 1:28, 29; 1 Cor 1:23; Eph 5:27; 2 Thess 2:15; 1 Tim 4:11; 5:7; Titus 1:9; Acts 20:29 – 31; Rom 16:17; Ps 119:96; Heb 4:12; Prov 14:12; Isa 8:20

- What is Paul’s focus? (Q: from lesson)
 - 1 Cor 2:2 – “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”
 - Focus = Jesus & His death on the cross

- What is Paul's focus?
 - Rom 1:16, 17 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
 - Not ashamed – the gospel was ridiculed because it openly confessed Jesus as Messiah
 - Paul boldly preached Christ & Him crucified
 - Lesson title = Power of the Gospel
 - Here, gospel = power of God to salvation
 - The gospel is for everyone: Jew & Gentile
 - Christian & non-Christian
 - Churched & unchurched
 - We often teach Paul's focus = salvation by grace through faith
 - Eph 2:8 –
 - Saved by grace through faith – not of works (nothing I can do)
 - Rom 3:24
 - Justified freely by His grace thru the redemption in Christ Jesus
 - Often compare Paul & James
 - James focuses on works & the two are incongruent: are they?
- **What is Paul's focus?**
 - Is the power of the gospel only salvation from the penalty of sin?
 - Justification (by faith)
 - Is the power of the gospel also salvation from the power of sin?
 - Sanctification (by faith, as well)
- **The power & purpose of the gospel** (from Paul's writings)
 - Col 1:27 – “...riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”
 - Mystery of the gospel = Christ can transform us by the power of the indwelling Christ
 - Eph 3:17 – “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...”
 - **Takeaway #1:** The power of the gospel means Jesus lives in me, by faith
 - Christ can transform us by the power of the indwelling Christ
 - Rom 6:6, 7 – “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (7) For he who has died has been freed from sin.”
 - **Takeaway #2:** The power of the gospel means my old habits, sins, addictions are crucified with Him
 - Crucifixion is painful: death to the old way of life
 - Matt 16:24 – “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’”
 - We think, “following Jesus is about giving up money, position, etc”

- Following Jesus = giving up my cross; my cross =
 - Habits, addictions, ungodly emotions
 - Bitterness, unforgiveness, jealousy, envy, lust, anger
- Gal 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
 - Contrast with Rom 7:17 – “it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.”
 - **Takeaway #3:** The power of the gospel means I surrender to Christ and allow Him to live through me
 - His purity, His holiness, His righteousness, His victory
 - His habits, His godly emotions
 - Gal 5 – works of flesh vs fruit of Spirit
 - Vs 22 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”
 - The law does not condemn us if we are bearing the fruit of the Spirit
- Eph 2:10 – we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works – which God prepared before that we should walk in them
 - **Takeaway #4:** The power of the gospel enables me to walk in good works
 - Good works are a gift
 - God prepared those good works for me to walk in
 - They manifest in my life when He dwells in me by faith & the old man / woman is put to death
- Eph 5:27 – “that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”
 - **Takeaway #5:** The purpose of the gospel is holiness & purity
 - Col 1:13, 14 – “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, (14) in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”
 - His purpose is to take us from darkness to Light
 - Sin to Redemption
 - Unforgiveness to forgiveness
 - Addiction to freedom
 - Anger to peace
 - Lust to purity
 - Jealousy to contentment
 - Fear to assurance
 - Pain to healing
 - Sin to perfection
- Col 1:28 – “Him we preach (Christ in you, the hope of glory), warning **every** man and teaching **every** man in all wisdom, that we may present **every** man **perfect** in Christ Jesus.”
 - Three-fold “every” = *pas* = each and every one

- Perfect = *tel'-i-os* = “complete, perfect, mature, without defect”
 - From *telos* = the end goal
- **Takeaway #6:** The purpose of the gospel is growth & maturity in Christ
 - We are called to grow in grace / grow in Jesus / grow in knowledge of His Word
 - Sign of the gospel working in the believer = growth
 - *Child who remains a child isn't the goal
 - Talk, walk, grow, read, write
- God's call to perfection / growth / maturity is higher & broader & deeper
 - Sermon on Mount – depth of the law
 - Heb 4:2 – Word of God extends to “thoughts & intents of the heart”
 - False teachings can lead us astray
 - Prov 14:12 – a way that “seems right to a man...is the way of death”
 - Col 1:28 – “warning every man”
- Col 1:29 – “To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”
 - To which end?
 - Vs 28 – “...that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”
- **Takeaway #7:** The purpose of Paul's ministry was whole Christians
 - Saved by grace through faith
 - Sanctified by surrender & the indwelling Christ
 - Growing to complete maturity in Jesus

7 Takeaways from Paul on the Power & Purpose of the gospel

- #1: The power of the gospel means Jesus lives in me, by faith
- #2: The power of the gospel means my old habits, sins, addictions are crucified with Him
- #3: The power of the gospel means I surrender to Christ and allow Him to live through me
- #4: The power of the gospel enables me to walk in good works
- #5: The purpose of the gospel is holiness & purity
- #6: The purpose of the gospel is growth & maturity in Christ
- #7: The purpose of Paul's ministry was whole Christians