

Why We Do the Things We Do

“What Is My Calling?”

March 22, 2026

Upcoming Series Starting on Easter

GOD NEVER SAID THAT		
Examining Common Statements That You Will Not Find in the Bible		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
April 4/5	God Helps Those Who Help Themselves	James 4:6-10
April 12	God Wants You to Be Happy	1 John 2:15-17
April 19	God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle	1 Corinthians 10:13
April 26	Money is The Root of All Evil	1 Timothy 6:6-19
May 3	To Thine Own Self Be True (Grad Sr. Sunday)	Luke 9:23-26
May 10	Heaven Needed Another Angel (Mother's Day)	Romans 12:15
May 17	Forgive and Forget	John 2:23-25

1. In order to unpack our calling we must first know the gospel

- **Matthew 28:16-20** “Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- “Go” in the Greek is: *poreuō* a verb which means: to carry over, transfer, to continue one’s journey, to follow one, become his adherent
- Our calling then is to continue what Christ had done with the original 12 disciples and emulate or duplicate it with all people groups. In short to *share the gospel!*
- Another way we could ask the question of “What is our calling?” then is: *What is the gospel?*
- Some common answers given to define the gospel are:
 - **Justification by faith** – In this definition, the “good news” is that you don’t have to earn salvation.
 - **Personal salvation** – In this definition, the good news is that you personally can be saved and escape punishment (usually by “inviting Jesus into your heart”).
 - **Going to Heaven** – Here, the good news is that your soul can go to heaven when you die.

- None of these definitions however fully encompass the New Testament author’s usage.
- **Galatians 3:8** *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”*
 - This gospel is more than just individual salvation.
- **Mark 14:9** *“And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”*
 - Jesus seems to think that her story will be proclaimed wherever the gospel is preached. Here the term “gospel” seems to be related to the entire ministry of Jesus and His program to renew the world.
- **Luke 9:6** *“And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.” And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.”*
 - In this passage, the disciples must preach the gospel, yet they didn’t preach justification by faith. They didn’t preach personal salvation. And, just to add a spark of controversy, they didn’t even preach about Jesus’ death and resurrection! They preached a message of the kingdom of God breaking into their current situation and demonstrated the kingdom coming by healing people and casting out demons. This is a message about the kingdom of God, and Jesus calls it “the gospel.”
- **Galatians 2:11** *“But when Cephas [Peter] came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned . . . [his] conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel.”*
 - This is a fascinating passage because Paul had to rebuke Peter because he forgot the gospel. Now, what did Peter forget? Did he forget that Jesus saves people personally? Did he forget that Jesus died for our sins? No, he actually forgot that God’s kingdom is meant to go forth to all nations and that withdrawing from fellowship with Gentiles was tantamount to denying the gospel.
- We have seen some of the definitions above don’t work alone with the way the New Testament uses the word “gospel.” So what is a better definition of the gospel? The way the gospel is described in the New Testament is a message about the kingdom of God. It is a message about how God is reestablishing His perfect rule

(kingdom) over the cosmos and reconciling the world through Himself by defeating His enemies and reversing the effects of the fall through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of His Son, King Jesus.

- Yes, justification by faith is true. Yes, Jesus saves individuals, and yes it is good that we don't have to be condemned when we die. Yes, the gospel is absolutely the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Yes, and amen to all these things! However, these must be related to the larger gospel message to make any sense and to truly preach the gospel the way the Bible does.
- We often wonder why someone who claims to be a disciple of Jesus can so easily separate their "spiritual" life from their "secular" life.
- It is because we have preached a gospel that deals merely with personal salvation, so once someone is "saved," there is not much else to think about. They "prayed the prayer," and now it is "mission accomplished." Yet, if we realized that the gospel is not just about our "spiritual" lives but about Christ redeeming everything that has gone wrong in the universe, it breaks down this sacred/secular divide.
- Jesus isn't just the "Lord of your heart." He is the Lord of the universe. He is the Lord over your finances. He is the Lord over your sex life. He is the Lord over your marriage. He is the Lord over your hobbies. He is the Lord over your kids. He is the Lord over turtles, and chocolate, and electricity, and quasars, and grass, and everything that exists!
- **Matthew 25:14-30** Jesus gives us a parable that gives tremendous insight into how we should be living out the gospel.

Today's Big Application

- **Proverbs 29:18** *"Where there is no vision the people perish..."*
 - **Habakkuk 2:2** *"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it"*
 - **Vision**
Isaiah 56:7, Matthew 21:13 *"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations"*
 - **Mission**
Be disciples who are making disciples
 - Today I choose to live out the gospel by:
 - Becoming Biblical in the way I live my life
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- Developing a lifestyle of prayer

- Being missional minded and in action

- Relational and spreading the gospel

- Strategic in how I live my life

- Striving to do my best in all I do as unto the Lord
