April Mase

Forum 4

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**How does a fuller view of the implications of the gospel affect how you live out your life?**

Understanding the full concept of how we were born sinners and convicted to death, even before we knew what sin was, gives a deeper sense of thankfulness and gratitude that we should have towards Jesus Christ; the one whore bore our sin and saved us from eternal death. This was a life changing gift given to us, the gift of forgiveness and grace extended, that we should be thankful for and accept. Along with the acceptance of this gift, it should be treated like a very important treasure, one that we should be careful not to break or throw away, but also one that should be shared. This gift should not just be shared in church with others that are there, but taken out into the community into our daily lives. It’s too easy to go to church on Sunday and then forget to share our excitement during the work week. We need to share our love for the Lord and our excitement for his gift every day, like it’s a Sunday.

**How can you more effectively communicate the gospel as something that is not just about a point in time (i.e. a prayer for salvation), but also a life that is lived that reflects the gospel?**

As we are sharing the news of the gospel in our daily lives, we are sharing not just with words but more often with our actions. Thinking about how people perceive us by our actions, what would they say? Would they say that you have a temper and are quick to anger? Would they say that you hold grudges or are hard to get along with? Would they say that you are judgmental? Now, I am not saying that we should all be concerned with what other people think of us but what I am pointing out is that by our actions we can either be living a life that reflects the gospel and the fruits of the spirit or we can be showing the exact opposite. It is one thing to know and accept the gift of forgiveness that has been given to us but what we do with that gift is important as well. Setting an example in our lives everyday takes constant prayer, self-evaluation, and repentance. I know that no matter how hard I try there is always something that I could have handled better or had a better attitude about and through prayer God will help me to live my life the way he wants me to according to the gospel. Jesus tells us in the Bible that we are to live our lives as an example by saying, “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” John 13:15 NIV)

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