



Episode 8: Gospel Perseverance Part 2: Celebrating and Pleading

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“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” — 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Summary

In John 4:32, after he spoke with the woman at the well, Jesus told his disciples who asked if he was hungry, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” Doing the will of his Father and calling people to faith was nourishing to Christ. The same is true for us. Sharing the gospel can be hard work, but it is also fun. Perhaps nothing can stir one’s faith and joy more than sharing the gospel with an unbeliever, especially when it results in salvation. We must remember that that is the goal: that people would be reconciled to God through Christ. Since that is our goal, we must persevere until we meet it. Simply making friends or building relationships in the community is not the goal. Seeking and saving the lost is. So persevere in seeking, praying, and pleading with the people in your sphere of influence, that they would be reconciled to God.

Podcast Listening Notes

Reflection Questions

Evangelism can be challenging, but it is also rewarding. Sharing the good news of Christ causes us to cherish the gospel even more. Take a moment and remember a time when you shared the gospel and how it brought you joy.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. How does Paul describe his role? What is his message? God is “making his appeal” and Paul is “imploring” people to believe the gospel. What does this suggest to you about how we should approach evangelism?

The final Stepping Stone calls us to persevere until we see fruit. What does this look like? If a person doesn’t respond to the gospel in faith, how can we persevere? Consider the person you are in process with currently. If they came to Christ, what would the next steps look like?



Action Point

Reflect on what you have learned on this journey thus far and review the 8 stepping Stones:

- The two **Foundational** stones of gospel joy and gospel community
- The two stones of **Awareness** of the gospel’s power and of the people around you
- The two stones of **Confidence** to take conversations deeper and share the whole gospel
- The two stones of **Perseverance** through hardship and until you see fruit



Prayer Prompt

Lord, for the joy set before you, you endured the shame of the cross. May I endure the challenges and hurdles that attend faithfully proclaiming your name to a lost world, knowing that to obey your will is nourishing to my faith. I pray that you would make your appeal through me and grant repentance and salvation to _____. Fill me with joy as I work with you, for you, and by your power to this end. To God be the glory.