

August Teaching Theme: What is the Gospel?

讲员 Speaker: 谢芬芬牧师 (REV. FENFEN XIE)

题目 Topic: “By Faith to Reconcile, To Fulfil God’s Purpose”

经文 Scripture: Story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50), 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Monthly Theme: This month’s theme is “the Gospel” and it’s implications. **The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that Jesus is King and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever**, thus we must give our allegiance to King Jesus. Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate - a downpayment of our inheritance in the Kingdom. **The Spirit applies *the benefits of the gospel* to those who respond with *allegiance!***

This week we are going to talk about the ***Gospel benefit*** “**Reconciliation.**” Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are now reconciled to God, with whom they were once enemies in their sin. The Holy Spirit also empowers the Christian to pursue the “ministry of reconciliation” with others, breaking down the relational barrier of the world.

Resources:

Bible Project Video: [The Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (English) (5:48)

Bible Project Video: [The Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (Chinese) (4:22)

If you have not watched this video yet as a group do so this week

[Rev. FenFen Xie PPT](#)

[Sermon Video](#)

If you need to review the story of Joseph watch this video summarizing Genesis 12-50. (This will probably be needed as a group to answer Rev. FenFen’s Questions - focus on Genesis 37-50 [starts at 5:20]).

[Read Scripture: Genesis 12-50](#)

Important Notes (from Pastor Will):

Notes on 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

- **Foundational to the “ministry of reconciliation” is the idea of not regarding people from a “worldly point of view.”** The world continually sets up relational barriers and hierarchies - the Kingdom of God breaks all of these walls down. When I begin to see everyone as “made in the image of God” with the ability to give their allegiance to King Jesus and be “transformed” into a “new creation,” then I must treat people with extreme depths of love.
- Paul knows the depth of God’s love through Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit and from this place he is “compelled” to partake in the “ministry of reconciliation,” even if it causes him suffering. (Clearly, some people thought him and others with him as “out of their mind.”)

- Paul continues his thought. Christ's love has a purpose not only for the human being but in the human being, a purpose that is essential to the salvation Christ has effected. He died that "those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died and was raised on their behalf." **In other words, Christ died in order to deliver human beings from their fatal bondage to themselves.** (We are trained to seek self first)
- We are called to be agents of God in the work of reconciliation - both imploring people to give their allegiance to King Jesus and seeking barrier-breaking relationships with fellow humans.
- **The foundation of becoming a "new creation" is found in the great exchange of verse 21.** This great exchange encompasses both the Gospel benefits of Justification and reconciliation through Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. Often called "imputed righteousness."

Discussion Questions:

- (1) Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passage?
- (2) 上帝对约瑟的眷顾具体表现在哪些方面？分享上帝对你的保守和眷顾。What are the specific manifestations of God's favor for Joseph? Take a minute to enjoy God's protection and care for you.
- (3) 约瑟是如何一步步地饶恕兄长们的？How did Joseph forgive his brothers step by step?
- (4) 你认为饶恕容易吗？谈谈耶稣对你的饶恕或者你对他人的饶恕。Do you think forgiveness is easy? Talk about Jesus forgiving you and the call to forgive others.
- (5) 你认为，作为基督的和好使者，和好究竟指什么？What do you think reconciliation means as Christ's messenger of reconciliation? As "ministers of reconciliation," what are some practical action steps for us to (1) implore others to reconcile to God, and (2) pursue reconciliation with others?
- (6) **Memorization Tool:** What is the Gospel? How do we respond to the Gospel? What can the followers of Jesus look forward to? What is the Gospel benefit "Justification"? What is the Gospel benefit "Reconciliation"? (Each week we will build on this).
 - (a) The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that **Jesus is King** and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever.
 - (b) We are called to respond by giving our **allegiance** (inclusive of faith, loyalty, trust) to King Jesus.
 - (c) Our hope is looking forward to Jesus return establishing the **New Heaven and New Earth**, where those who give King Jesus allegiance will live forever.
 - (d) The Gospel benefit "justification": Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are **declared not guilty** being freed from both the penalty of sin and the power of sin.
 - (e) The Gospel benefit "reconciliation": God through Jesus has **healed the fractured relationship between God and humanity**. From this place, we can seek reconciliation in our human relationships.