

Bringing Good News, 1: “Our Motivation”

Various Scriptures

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Scripture Introduction & Sermon Series

We usually preach expositional sermons where the sermon is based on one passage of scripture. But this will be a brief topical sermon series where we look at one important topic through various passages from the Bible.

So, the important topic we will be covering is the topic of evangelism in this brief sermon series called, Bringing Good News. Today we will cover the first part called, Our Motivation.

Sermon Introduction

This is an important starting point because we need to address what our motivation should be in evangelism. Not only are there wrong motivations to evangelize, but we as believers in Jesus Christ find ourselves unmotivated, uncertain and unexcited when we consider how we can participate in evangelism in our own lives. On top of that, if we have tried to evangelize before, we probably have quickly realized that there are many discouragements in evangelism as well.

So, I want to encourage you that you are not alone if you feel any of these ways regarding evangelism. As I was reading and researching on this topic for the past few weeks, every author and every person who I thought seemed to be a gifted evangelist, it turns out that each of them still continue to struggle with evangelism. They had stories of how they missed opportunities and how they messed up opportunities that God gave to them, and I have many of these stories as well.

But wherever you are in your approach to evangelism, whether you feel like evangelism is not your thing and you have never tried it, or you have and you feel discouraged to continue to try, I hope God speaks his motivation for us all today.

The One Thing

So, the One Thing for us today is this:

Be motivated in Christ to bring his good news to others in your life.

Overview

In this sermon, we'll cover four motivations we have in Christ to evangelize and bring the good news of Jesus to others. What motivates us in evangelism?

1. Experiencing the “evangel” for ourselves
2. Delight in our duty
3. Love for those still lost
4. Worship that God is worthy of

Prayer for the Preaching of the Word

- Many ways we are unmotivated for evangelism
- Correct our understanding of what biblical evangelism is and help us to understand how important it is, both for ourselves as well as our listeners

Sermon Outline

I. Experiencing the “evangel” for ourselves

- We are motivated in Christ to evangelize as we personally experience how the “evangel” saves us from our sin and God's wrath.

- To understand this motivation, let's first define evangelism. "Evangel" refers to "good news." And the nature of "good news" is that it is shared to others, so that's where we have the concept of evangelism. If we're talking about any good news that happens in the world, then people naturally "evangelize" about their new relationship, or their new job. Foodies joyfully "evangelize" about a new restaurant they discovered. Tourists proudly "evangelize" about a new country they visited. But the good news we are talking about is the best "good news," better than any other good news in the world. It's the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - Because this good news needs to be understood, words must be proclaimed. But also, it is not just presenting the good news. There is a goal. The goal is to persuade people that the good news is good—that it is true. The goal is to convince them to not reject the gospel but respond to the gospel with repentance and faith. So here's a working definition of evangelism we can refer to: Evangelism is proclaiming the gospel to persuade others to put their trust in Jesus Christ.

What is evangelism?

Evangelism is proclaiming the gospel to persuade others to put their trust in Jesus Christ.

- So with this definition established, we now need to define what the gospel is exactly. Because there are false gospels that make false claims about who God is and what he does. There are also misunderstandings about who we are and what we should do to be saved. There is only one true gospel in God's Word that must be proclaimed. It can be summarized as four main points: "God, man, Christ, response."

What is the gospel?

The gospel can be summarized as four main points: "God, man, Christ, response."

First, God. God is the Creator God who created us to be in a right relationship with Him. In him, we had our true purpose to worship Him alone, and true identity as His beloved children. But we lost it all because of our sin and we have broken our relationship with Him.

Second, Man. As sinners enslaved to sin, everyone has rebelled against God and we rightfully deserve to be punished by God's holy wrath.

Third, Christ. While we were still spiritually dead and without hope, God the Father sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our substitute: Jesus lived the perfect life we were supposed to live, but he died on the cross to take the penalty of sin that we deserved. He resurrected three days later so that we may have new life in him.

Lastly, the Response: Now, whoever repents of their sin, believes in Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior, and follows him as his disciple for the rest of their lives will be saved from sin and death.

This is the gospel from God's Word. It is the good news of salvation for all sinners.

- For those of us here who have not yet put your trust in Jesus Christ, I hope you see how Christianity is "good news." It's not like religions that present "good rules" to follow in order to be right with God because we could never do enough good as sinners. I hope you also understand that Christianity is not like the philosophies of the world that offer "good advice" about how our lives could be better, because we need a real solution for the problem of our sin. Trying to make our lives on earth a little better is not worth being crushed under God's wrath and being forever separated from Him. So, I pray that you will come to personally experience the gospel, personally encounter Jesus and put your trust in him.
 - For the believers here, I pray that the gospel will continue to deeply move you, especially now as we consider it as our starting point for evangelism.

- In order to get started with sharing the gospel, there has to be first and foremost a personal experience of the gospel itself. We cannot persuade others how good a restaurant is, or how good a movie is until we have personally experienced it. So how much more do we need to first personally experience the gospel to persuade others with it? In other words, the good news of Christ must truly be good news for us before we can convince others that it's good for them. We see in scripture that this was the reality of all those who were willingly evangelizing to others.

Show picture of "Samaritan woman.jpg"

- We see one example in Jesus' interaction with a Samaritan woman at the well in the book of John 4. We won't get into all the details now. But we just need to note that Jesus, in his love and mercy, teaches the woman about how she can have eternal life through him. But in doing so, Jesus also reveals the personal sins in her life: how she had many marriages and how she was now with a man that was not her husband. She gets defensive at first when her sins are addressed but, as Jesus reveals himself as the Messiah, the Savior of the world, her response is remarkable.
 - She leaves her water jug at the well because she just has to tell somebody about her interaction with Jesus. She goes into the town where the people probably knew enough about her sinful life and she still tells them about Jesus. She tells them how Jesus knew about her sinful life and everything she ever did. And she invites them to come experience Jesus for themselves. As the people heard her testimony, and then heard more of the good news from Jesus himself, many Samaritans from that town believed that Jesus is the Savior of the world.
- Another example from scripture is the Apostle Paul. He was a prolific evangelist who just could not be stopped from proclaiming the gospel to others. It didn't matter if he was in the religious places, or in the market places, or even in prison, tortured and beaten—Paul was bringing good news of Jesus wherever he was. So what was his motivation? We see it in his personal testimony in...

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

- These two examples point to how a personal experience of the gospel is in the context of addressing our sins. Because the gospel teaches us how Christ came into the world to save sinners. The gospel teaches us that we are still accepted by Jesus through faith even though we are sinners undeserving of his mercy. So for believers who have personally experienced this gospel, they have acknowledged their sinfulness in order to receive salvation from sin and God's wrath.
 - And from the very first moment that we experience this gospel in this way, we are prepared and ready to bring this good news to others. This is why new believers can boldly and joyfully share how they personally experienced Jesus during their baptism as we celebrate their salvation. Starting from our first personal experience of the gospel to every experience after that, God makes us more and more ready to share the gospel with others. So at any time we find ourselves unmotivated to evangelize, we may have forgotten for a moment what Christ has done for us. And we must realize again how sinful we are; how all our sins are like an infinite debt we could never pay back. And as we address specific sin in our lives, we preach the gospel to ourselves, and remember how good this good news truly is.
- As we are motivated by the gospel itself, we see that one helpful tool in our efforts of evangelism is a personal testimony. To be clear, sharing a personal testimony should not replace proclaiming the gospel. Remember that the gospel is about God, man, Christ and response. But a personal testimony is an effective tool that not only will remind us of our personal experiences with the gospel but an effective tool to preview the gospel for unbelievers. Through personal testimonies, we declare

to others, “Oh, taste and see for yourself that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8) as we share we have already tasted and seen his goodness.

- To practically write a personal testimony, we have a helpful guide in our baptism material that you can request. And personal testimonies don’t always have to be our full life stories and how we were saved. They should also be short stories of how you continue to experience the gospel in your life, particularly in the areas of sin and struggle that we continue to face even as believers. They need to hear about how our lives have been impacted by the gospel as we explain to them, “As God has saved me from my sin and God’s wrath, He is able to save you too.” And when we see people are responsive to the preview of the gospel, we can continue on and share and teach the gospel to them.
 - Also, remember that our efforts in evangelism should not be a lecture, or a monologue, but an ongoing conversation with people in our lives who don’t know Jesus the way we do, who have not experienced the gospel the way we have. And as we try to move our conversations from the surface, to the serious, to the spiritual, personal testimonies will be a valuable tool to get closer and closer to the gospel.
- The first and starting motivation is experiencing the “evangel” for ourselves. The remaining motivations flow from this. The second motivation is...

II. Delight in our duty

- We are motivated as we learn to carry out our duty to evangelize with a delight in Christ.
- To understand this motivation, we have to acknowledge that Jesus commands evangelism. Evangelism is the duty of every believer. It started with the original disciples with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-19, where Jesus said,

Matthew 28:18b–19 (ESV)

“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,

- The apostles took this command to heart. They understood they were “under obligation to preach the gospel” (Romans 1:14). When they were threatened to stop teaching about Jesus, they responded, saying, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). Even in the face of severe, painful persecution (2 Corinthians 11:23-28), the Apostle Paul proclaimed the gospel, saying, “Necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:16).
 - But it was not only the apostles who took up the call to evangelize. Every generation of disciples who came after them responded to the call with obedience as well. So, when nameless, everyday Christians were also scattered by persecution, they still continued to preach the gospel wherever they went (Acts 8:4, 40) and the hand of God was with them as many people believed and turned to God (Acts 11:19-20).
- So our motivation to evangelize should also be out of obedience to Jesus. But we need to understand that obedience to Jesus is deeper than just following orders. Obeying Jesus is a matter of love. Jesus teaches his disciples that:

John 14:21a, 24a (ESV)

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me.

²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.

- If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, we have to understand obeying Jesus is loving Jesus. And when we have personally experienced the gospel, as we experientially know and believe that Jesus saved us from our sins, we are able to approach our duty of evangelism with delight in Christ. The gospel produces a soul-stirring satisfaction of God in Christ, enabling us to do all that we have to do for God with a perspective that I get to do these for the Lord. And when we obey Jesus with this perspective of privilege, we give him greater honor in our lives.

- For example, as a pastor, I need to carry out my responsibilities as a pastor. It's my job that I get paid to do. It's my calling I must be faithful to. It's my obligation and duty that I must obey. So, one of my responsibilities is to care for the members of our spiritual family. So as members come to me broken, depressed, confused, I do whatever I can do to help them in their faith. Now imagine, after I counseled and prayed for and helped a member through a struggle, he thanks me for it. How much honor would I be giving if I responded by saying, "No need to thank me, this is just my job that I have to do. I have no other choice."¹ Well, I did do my job. I carried out my duty in obedience but there is not much honor for the person if duty was my only reason to serve him. Rather, greater honor is given when I respond saying, "You're welcome, but I am glad to do this for you. It is my joy and privilege to help in any way I can." In the same way, we give Jesus greater honor, not only when we obey his commands, but when we obey in love. When we carry out our duty with delight in Christ.
- Evangelism is one of the more difficult commands of Christ to obey. But, I ask you, in response to his love for you in the gospel, is obeying Jesus a delightful joy for you? Are Jesus commands just things you have to do or do you see them as privileges that you get to do? We won't be perfect in this, and I will be the first to confess, but in order to love Jesus we must be faithful to our duty with delight in him.
- As we are talking about this particular motivation, we should briefly address a wrong motivation we often face when dealing with our obedience. And that is guilt. We should not and cannot be driven by guilt. It's not a good enough motivator because guilt focuses our attention on how we fall short of our God-given responsibilities without remembering God's grace. The danger is that guilt, or even guilt, to obey does seem to produce some short-term results. We might see a slight uptick in our outward performance and we start checking off our Christians to-do lists that we evangelized. But all this will make us depend more on our own abilities, looking to ourselves apart from God as we just try harder to be better. And if nothing gets better, then we spiral into hopelessness.
 - But if some things do seem to get better, then we spiral into pride. And when this happens, we start to think we can somehow do God's work without God's help. And we become less and less like Christ as we try to proclaim him to others. Our prideful desires start crawling in: Desires of wanting to be right and winning theological arguments. Desires of wanting to look more godly and to have a reputation in the church as a successful evangelist.
 - It's clear to us when we are on the receiving end of people's pride and arrogance, and we hate it. But we can easily become this way if we do not make love for Jesus our motivation. If you struggle in this area as you try to obey Jesus, I encourage you to apply the gospel of grace again. I encourage you to remember how Jesus Christ obeyed perfectly in our place and the joy and strength of our obedience comes from loving him. And may his love for us lead us to try again to obey Jesus in the power of the gospel at work in us.
- There is another necessary correction here, as we learn to carry out our duty to evangelize with a delight in Christ. The correction we have to note is that evangelism does not equal conversion. Going back to the definition of evangelism, it is proclaiming the gospel to persuade people to put their trust in Jesus. It specifically does not say, to convert people. This is because converting hearts to believe in Jesus is a work of God, not our work. God says in...

Ezekiel 36:26–27 (ESV)

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

- Only God has the power to change hearts so we should never claim that power for ourselves. This has a significant impact on our understanding of our obedience and our success in evangelism. Our success in evangelism is not measured by how many people become believers.

¹ Adapted from John Piper's illustration of how honor is granted in carrying out our duty with delight.

Our success in evangelism is measured by our faithful obedience to try—proclaiming Christ and persuading people. And, our failure in evangelism is nothing other than not trying.

- So I hope this is freeing for us. We don't have to see people convert to be successful in evangelism! We are simply called to share. May we be motivated to be faithful to Jesus, trying to direct our conversations to Christ, trying to persuade others to believe in him.
- The second motivation was Delight in our Duty to evangelize. The next motivation will direct us in how we should evangelize, which is...

III. Love for those still lost

- We are motivated in Christ to evangelize as we feel his compassion for the lost who are yet to be saved.
- In our approach to evangelism, we have to believe that God desires to save people. He says it himself: "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live" (Ezekiel 18:32, 33:11). God desires that all sinners repent, turn away from sin, turn to God and live. This is why in his love for a broken world, God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, so that whoever believes in him, shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). In his love for sinners, he made Jesus Christ to be the ransom for our sins, bridging the gap between sinners like us and a holy God (1 Timothy 2:3-6).
 - God's love for us is fully expressed in Jesus' compassion for the lost. See what it says in...

Matthew 9:36 (ESV)

³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- The kind of compassion here is not just feeling bad for someone. The kind of compassion we see in the bible has to do with a deep sense of pity for someone's suffering, where someone is moved to the depths of their being. To use everyday language, when Jesus looked out to the crowds of people, "his heart broke" for them (MSG translation) as they were like harassed and helpless sheep without a shepherd. As his disciples, we share in this deep feeling of compassion for those in our lives who have yet to believe in Jesus Christ and it motivates us to do something about it.
- This is how the Apostle Paul expressed this compassion for those who were still lost. He says...

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 19-20 (ESV)

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Christ's love controls us, meaning Christ's love so forcefully moves and motivates us to implore, plea, beg people to believe and be reconciled to God. His love is the motivating force that drives us to evangelize. And for those who do not yet believe, our hearts would be filling up with "great sorrow and unceasing anguish" (Romans 9:2). So, we have to understand that one of the most loving things to do is evangelize. I hope we all see this, that it is so loving for the lost to proclaim the gospel and persuade them to put their trust in Jesus Christ, so that they too can experience his love for themselves.

- So if we follow the logic here, then what is the most unloving thing to do for the lost? It is to not evangelize. It's unloving because we are somehow unmoved with the thought that the wrath of God and condemnation for their sin remains on them (John 3:18, 36).
- You may have heard about Nabeel Qureshi. He is a famous evangelist of our day who, shortly after becoming a believer of Jesus Christ, passed away from cancer. But for a long time, since childhood, he was a devout Muslim. And he shares his testimony about his time when he attended high school with Christians and how none of them ever mentioned Jesus Christ to him. It might have been because none of them could ever answer his difficult questions that challenged Christianity, but he shares about his respect for one girl who did evangelize to him.² He said, quote:

Show picture "Nabeel Qureshi.jpg" side-by-side with this quote:

"The moment she asked me, "If I believe in Jesus," my respect for her went up because I took a look at all the people in my class who called themselves Christians. And I knew that they believed, in order for me to go to heaven, I need to believe in Jesus. But none of them have ever asked me that. So I thought one of two things must be true: Either they don't really believe [in the gospel] or they don't care if I go to hell."

- End quote. His testimony challenges us, challenges me, of the reality when we do not evangelize to people in our lives. It can either show that we don't really believe that this is the way to be saved from our sins. Or if we do believe it, it shows that we don't really care if they remain unsaved and go to hell. But for believers, it should be neither of these two things. Because we do believe in the gospel and we do care if people remain under God's wrath. We must remember that Jesus, in his love, came to this world. Jesus, in his love, sent person after person to proclaim the gospel to me, to persuade me to put my trust in him. When I am unmotivated to evangelize, I remember this. Jesus' love for me and Jesus' love for the lost.
- I'm also thankful that there are faithful evangelists in my life that remind me of this as well. As we are striving to evangelize, we share our successes when we have faithfully tried to proclaim the gospel and persuade others. But we also share our failures and encourage one another to remember God's grace and try again. And when we share such stories with one another in our church, we learn to grow in Christ's compassion and his love for the lost.
 - I'm thankful that I get to live with one faithful evangelist. She has many stories so I ask her about her experiences in bringing good news to others. And one story was about her best friend in high school who was not a believer and from another religion. And I just wanted to know what was on her mind as she kept trying to explain the gospel to her friend, as she kept persuading her to believe. And I was expecting her to share some kind of method she learned or skill she had acquired in evangelizing. But I was just humbled by her simple, honest answer. She just said, "I loved my friend, and I wanted her to be in heaven with me." This is how love motivates us.
- Here's an important practical application. If the most loving thing we can do is to evangelize, then how should we evangelize? We must evangelize lovingly. It would be ridiculously ironic if we were motivated by Christ's love to evangelize, and then evangelize in harsh, forceful, manipulative ways. Instead, though it is urgent, evangelism must be gentle. The Apostle Paul could have been forceful, he could have pulled out his Apostle badge and imposed his authority on people. But he didn't. He says in...

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (ESV)

⁷ But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

² From "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: The Christian Testimony of Nabeel Qureshi": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0D8Uz4oQck>

- Evangelism must be marked with this kind of love. Love that is gentle is like a nursing mother with her baby. Love that is affectionate. Love that is sacrificial. Love that sees people very dearly. In our evangelism, our non-Christian friends need to know that we love them. Because when they feel love from us, they will allow us to choose the topic of conversation.³ They will give us a listening ear because their hearts are touched. Otherwise, it will be so easy for them to feel like a project. And the reality is, they may already have had Christians come to them with an agenda when they have not seen or felt our deep love and care for them. Not manipulating, not arguing. But all gentleness, proclaiming the gospel and persuading them how good the good news truly is.
 - It is a lot of work to love people, and even more work to lovingly persuade them to believe in Jesus. And even in all of our efforts, we may not see them come to believe. But may we be filled with the love of Christ to simply desire people we love to be in heaven with us.
- Now onto the last motivation, the ultimate motivation which all the other motivations feed into. It's this...

IV. Worship that God is worthy of

- We are motivated in Christ to evangelize as our ultimate desire is for God to receive the worship He is worthy to receive.
- Worship is the ultimate motivation but worship is the ultimate activity for God's people: Worshiping God is what we were created to do (Psalm 139). Worshiping God is what we were saved to do (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14). And worshiping God is what we will forever be doing in heaven (Revelations 7:9-12). And yes, our worship of God is expressed in singing praises to God, serving God, studying God's Word, and seeking and speaking to God.
 - But our worship is also expressed in our evangelism. Evangelism is an act of worship because, as we exalt God and enjoy God above everything else, we desire God to be exalted and enjoyed by many more people than just me. Our ultimate desire is that our God be ultimately desired by all people. This is the heart of true worship we see in...

Psalm 96:2-4 (ESV)

² Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! ⁴ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

- The psalmist writes that God is great and therefore He should be praised greatly. So as we declare God's glory, beauty and majesty, we call out to all the peoples, to all the nations that he is our Savior God and King. God is worshiped and glorified when his mighty work of salvation is made known to others. So, our worship must include proclaiming the good news of salvation and persuading others to believe and worship.
 - So, as an act of worship to God, will you bring good news to others in your life? Think about your family and friends, your coworkers and classmates, neighbors and everyday strangers. No matter how far they might be from God, they are just one degree away, one person away from coming to know God and joining in worship with us. Rather than getting caught up in our inabilities and failures, or consumed by our missed or messed-up opportunities, let's remember what matters most. What matters most in evangelism is not the work of evangelism, but rather the worship in evangelism. remember the ultimate reason of our lives. It is God himself who is our source of joy, our support and strength, and our deepest satisfaction.⁴
- As we try to faithfully follow through with this motivation of worship, there will be times when our evangelism seems like a natural overflow of worship in our lives.⁵

³ H. C. Trumbull's quote in C. G. Trumbull, *Taking Men Alive*. "Whenever I am justified in choosing the topic of conversation with another person, the theme of all themes, Jesus Christ, will have prominence between us, so that I may learn of his need and, if possible, meet it."

⁴ Adapted from Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith: Five Ways to Be Evangelism Ready* (10 Publishing, 2022), 71.

⁵ Don Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (Tyndale, 2014), 119.

- There was one of few times in my efforts to evangelize where this happened for me. I lived by a particular religious institution and so every day as I walked past it, I would lift up a prayer for the people there, for their salvation. And one day, as I was training students in evangelism, I decided to take some right up to the steps of that religious institution. I needed translation but God led me to share the gospel to two older men who were sitting there. They were waiting there during the fasting month so we started a conversation. It started with an introduction and usually I start with the fact that I'm Korean but grew up in America. And then we asked them about prayer and fasting and what it means to them. We asked about what they believed about sin and how they can be forgiven. And they shared openly.
 - And toward the middle of the conversation, I asked for permission if I could share what I believe is the way to be forgiven by God. I went through the gospel and by God's grace, they heard the whole thing. Even other men around us were listening in as well. They said they never heard this about Jesus and it was interesting, but they were not interested in learning more. So we talked about some other things and until we all had to go do other things. And afterwards, I felt a delight in God in a way that I don't feel often. I did feel a sense of compassion that they did not want to follow up. But there was still this feeling, like a silent satisfaction and gratitude that I could share the good news with people who have never heard it before. I think now, that it had to do with a unique desire for God that is expressed and felt through evangelism.
- Again, to be honest, I don't feel that way about evangelism most of the time. Most of the time, it is a struggle. Especially when I am with friends and people that I already have relationships with. I still get the evangelism-butterflies in the stomach and I still end up not directing the conversation topic. But I encourage you, even these moments are not wasted with God because they are moments of grace where God is sanctifying us. What we worship will be exposed in our evangelism.
 - When I find myself struggling with words or shying away from sharing about Jesus, God reveals to me what I am actually worshiping in that moment. In those moments where I don't open my mouth to speak, I am worshiping myself. Not only because I get so overwhelmingly self-conscious and I can only think about myself, but I'm worshiping myself also because I try to protect my reputation and my image: I don't want to sound strange. I don't want to be rejected. Instead, in that moment, I rather be accepted and I am choosing that over the possibility of God being known, loved and worshiped. And so it becomes another opportunity where I need to preach the gospel to myself, cling to Christ, repent and receive forgiveness and motivation again to bring good news to others.
 - So, if we never even begin to try to evangelize, we will miss out on valuable moments where God can further purify us in our love for God and love for Him. And I encourage you all, please do not miss out.

Conclusion:

As we close, I hope we see that these motivations we have in Christ are nothing new but that we have always had these motivations in Christ as we live for him. I believe God is well aware of how unmotivated we can be, and so he knows just the ways to motivate us.

- So in your personal response to the gospel, will you begin to bring good news to others?
- In your love for Jesus and love for the lost, will you continue to strive to bring good news?
- And ultimately, in your desire to see God receive the worship honor and glory that he deserves, will you do all that you can to persuade others that he is truly worthy of all our worship?

Life Application:

- 1) Review: Which motivation in Christ is personally speaking to me?
- 2) Reflect: Do I personally and regularly experience how good the gospel is?
 - Again, it will help to remember how sinful we are and recall specific sins in our lives where we desperately depend on God's power to save us from.
- 3) Repent: Is God my ultimate delight and greatest desire?

- No, not at all times, especially when we are not motivated to share the gospel.
- 4) Recommit: Who will I share my personal testimony to as I try to proclaim and persuade?
- As you review, reflect, and repent, I believe God is calling every believer here to recommit to the work of evangelism he has called us to. I encourage you to prayerfully consider who you can intentionally share with this week.
 - Our families, as children to parents
 - Or parents to children (Deuteronomy 11:19)
 - As workers to coworkers
 - As students to classmates
 - As a neighbor to neighbors

As we strive to apply God's Word to our lives this week, remember the one thing.

The One Thing:

Be motivated in Christ to bring his good news to others in your life.

For TGR: Can we all stand together as we close?

For JKT: I'll close us out in prayer before P.Eric comes up to lead us in response.

Closing songs:
Your Great Name