

Translating the Gospel to Our Lives

Session 1: God's Love for Us

"The Sabbath-day is for our interest; it promotes holiness in us. The business of week-days makes us forgetful of God and our souls; the Sabbath brings him back to our remembrance. When the falling dust of the world has clogged the wheels of our affections, that they can scarce move towards God, the Sabbath comes, and oils the wheels of our affections...The heart which all the week was frozen, on the Sabbath melts with the word."

Thomas Watson, The Ten Commandments

The Gospel -

- Romans 3:9-31
- Ephesians 2:1-9
- Colossians 1:21-23

God's disposition towards us...

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (NIV)

Ephesians 1:4-5 *"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—"* (NIV)

Ephesians 2:4-5 *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved"* (ESV)

1. God's love is the same everyday -

Romans 5:6-11 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (NIV)

2. Nothing can separate us from God's love -

Romans 8:35, 38-39 35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... 38 I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NIV)*

3. God's love empowers us and gives us perspective -

Ephesians 3:17-19 17 *“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (NIV)*

Romans 8:37 37 *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (NIV)*

Romans 8:37 37 *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. (NASB)*

Psalms 23:6 6 *“Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” (NASB)*

Questions for Personal Reflection:

- **Remembering the Thomas Watson quote we looked at, what is the “falling dust” of your life that hardens your heart, makes you forget God and your soul, and makes it hard to move towards God? You will be sharing this with your small group so try to give it some thought.**
- **What are some of the ways you struggle to really understand and receive God's love for you? When do you feel God's love for you diminishes? Confess that to God and ask Him to help you know how big His love is for you everyday.**
- **Read back through the passages we looked at in session 1. As you do this, respond through journaling or prayer, sharing with God how those verses make you feel.**