



## Lesson Notes: Gospel Doctrine/Biblical Theology

- 1) Gospel Doctrine emphasizes the Bible as a whole.
  - a) Gospel Doctrine interprets the Bible within the entire storyline of the Bible.
    - i) The storyline of the Bible culminates in the person and work of Christ.
    - ii) Gospel Doctrine can be understood as a hermeneutical method of understanding Scripture as a single story.
  - b) Gospel Doctrine changes how we read the Bible.
    - i) The Bible is not merely a religious encyclopedia or an instruction manual designed to give us inspiration and guidance.
    - ii) Gospel Doctrine affirms that the Bible contains sixty-six books written over thousands of years by multiple authors in multiple genres; thus, the Bible can be read in many helpful ways.
    - iii) Gospel Doctrine also affirms that God is the author of the entire Bible, superintending all of its human authors. This informs how we are to read the Bible.
    - iv) We can only understand parts of the Bible inasmuch as we understand how they contribute to the story of the Bible.
- 2) Gospel Doctrine is a hermeneutical method rooted in Scripture.
  - a) On the road to Emmaus, Jesus taught two disciples how to read the Bible.
    - i) Jesus “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45), showing them how everything written about Him in “the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44).
    - ii) The entire Old Testament spoke of Christ’s suffering, resurrection, and the ensuing proclamation of repentance and forgiveness to the nations.
  - b) Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for failing to see how the Bible is all about Him (John 5:39).
  - c) The Apostles understood the Bible as one story about Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:3).
- 3) Gospel Doctrine is powerful to save.
  - a) Gospel Doctrine shapes preaching in such a way that regardless of a passage’s location, the entire plotline is in view.
  - b) Preaching that is centered on the gospel—the person and work of Christ—is powerful to save (1 Peter 1:23).

- 4) Gospel Doctrine is a mark of a healthy church.
  - a) Gospel Doctrine centers churches on the power of the gospel.
    - i) The gospel is not moralism or mere motivation.
    - ii) The gospel is that which gives a sermon power.
  
  - b) Gospel Doctrine protects churches from error.
    - i) Gospel Doctrine keeps the Bible in context.
      - (1) For example, a prosperity preacher may take the covenant blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28 out of context.
      - (2) The relationship between blessing and obedience is clear, but Israel will soon suffer covenant curses.
      - (3) Israel's disobedience points to our disobedience and the good news of a Savior in Jesus Christ.
    - ii) Gospel Doctrine does not lose sight of the broad storyline of the Bible.
    - iii) Gospel Doctrine shapes the church's mission because teaching that the Bible is all about the person and work of Christ shapes what a church will do.
  
- 5) Gospel Doctrine leads to worship.
  - a) Understanding that everything in the Bible points towards Christ accompanies an overwhelming sense of God's love for us.
  
  - b) The Bible—in fact, all of history—is purposed for the revelation of Jesus Christ. Being united to Him, we cannot help but worship.