



Sermon Discussion Guide




How Then Shall We Live: The Gospel Boast

1 Corinthians 1:28-2:5

Ray Cortese, August 27 & 28, 2016

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 Corinthians 1:28-2:5. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Ray talked about the power of inner voices in our lives, either to strengthen and encourage us or condemn and demoralize us. What have been some of the inner voices in your own life?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

THE BOAST OF THE GOSPEL

- 3 What is the difference between saying the gospel is a self-help philosophy versus good news?
- 4 Like Ray did, how could you explain the gospel to someone using the words "ugliness" and "the beautiful life"?

- 5 At the Promise Keepers event Ray's defenses were overcome by a flood of "we love you, we love you, we love you" reigning down from the crowd. When was the last time you were overwhelmed by the love of God for you?

THE WEAKNESS OF THE GOSPEL

- 6 The gospel allows us to be weak and admit weakness. What skills are you at times tempted to depend on rather than depending on Jesus?
- 7 The gospel means we can live without other people's approval because we have the approval of the Father. Do you care too much about what other people think? Do you work hard to craft a specific image in order to be accepted?
- 8 The gospel means you can face the truth about yourself with security. Have you ever asked someone else (your spouse, your kids, a friend) how they experience you? If not, what do you think they would say?

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

- 9 George Whitfield said, "I believe in the Holy Spirit" with every step he took into the pulpit. In what daily moments of your own life do you need to do the same?
- 10 The gospel has the power to change people. How have you been changed by the love of God? How do you still want to be changed?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?