

### III. Three Bags and Choices

#### III. Target and Bullseye

##### 1 Corinthians 15: 1-5

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the Gospel I preached to you, which you have received and on which you have taken your stand. By this Gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I pass on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the twelve.”

The goal of this study is to clarify the Gospel in our hearts and minds so it leads

to transformation in every part of our lives.

- For some, this study will serve as a reminder to you of the importance of the Gospel and how central it must be in all areas of your life.
- For some, this study will reveal to you that you’ve never truly been saved, never believed the Gospel, and you will come to a decision point of faith or unbelief.

#### INTRODUCTION: UNDERSTANDING the GOSPEL

##### I. WHAT IS the “GOSPEL?”

- The word “gospel” literally means “good news.” The Greek word (*euaggelion*) appears 93 times in the Bible, exclusively in the New Testament. From that word, we derive our English words *evangelist* and *evangelical*.
- In a general, broad sense, the Gospel is the whole of the Bible, telling us of God’s story of redemption and salvation for us.
- In a more specific, narrow sense (and the way we will understand it throughout this study), the Gospel is the “good news” is that God loves us and has made a way through the Lord Jesus Christ for us to know Him and have relationship with Him.

##### II. WHY DO WE NEED TO STUDY THE GOSPEL? SIX BIBLICAL REASONS

#1: We need to study the gospel to understand HOW we can KNOW God and build our identity in Him.

- ✓ The gospel is the fundamental building block of our foundation for life.
  - Understanding the Gospel is the ultimate key to understanding the identity of God Himself.

- ✓ The Gospel allows us to discover who God is through the revelation of His son, Jesus Christ; then, the Holy Spirit begins to reveal to us who we are IN CHRIST.

*“The Bible says that our real problem is that every one of us is building our identity on something besides Jesus.”— Tim Keller*

### III. Identity Video Clip- “Who Am I?”

- Lack of Identity=confusion, darkness, bad choices, broken relationship with God and with others  
“We don’t know where we fit in. We allow our worth and self-esteem to be determined by WHAT WE DO and WHAT OTHERS THINK and NOT BY WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST.”
- Only by knowing WHO GOD IS can we know WHO WE ARE!
  - **“We are created in His image and have the gift of free will.”**
  - THEREFORE, our true identity (who we ARE and who we CAN BE are found ONLY in relationship to GOD.
  - There is WORTH and VALUE in our IDENTITY in CHRIST. Therefore, there is WORTH and VALUE in our lives.

**#2: We need to study the gospel to understand what it means to be reconciled with God resulting in true forgiveness, peace, joy, and the promise of eternal life.**

“Focusing on our new relationship with God transforms our obsessive need for other people’s approval. Our attention is, instead, CAPTIVATED BY THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.....We understand the importance of facing ourselves honestly and placing our confidence in the person of Jesus Christ.

**#3: We need to study the gospel to understand and accept that our past is forgiven.**

#### **Acts 10:43**

*All the prophets testify about Him (Jesus) that **everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness in His name.***

#### **Psalm 103:10-12**

*He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him.*

**#4: We need to study the Gospel to have assurance and confidence in our future inheritance.**

#### **Titus 3:4-7**

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

**#5: We need to study the gospel to understand how to love God and how to how to love others.**

**Matthew 22:37-39**

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. The second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself."

**John 13:34**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

**1 Timothy 1: 5**

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

**#6: We need to study the gospel so that we have a true understanding of who God is, what He says, and how to grow in our faith in the present.**

✓ **The Gospel bears weight and importance for our PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE.**

An important part of building a firm foundation for a new identity in Christ involves learning to look at ALL PARTS of our lives through the "lens" of our relationship with God and His Word.

### **III. Worldview Video Clip**

A "worldview" refers to a comprehensive conception of the world from a specific standpoint. A "Christian worldview," then, is a comprehensive conception of the world from a Christian standpoint. An individual's worldview is his "big picture," a harmony of all his beliefs about the world. It is his way of understanding reality. One's worldview is the basis for making daily decisions and is therefore extremely important.

An apple sitting on a table is seen by several people. A botanist looking at the apple classifies it. An artist sees a still-life and draws it. A grocer sees an asset and inventories it. A child sees lunch and eats it. How we look at any situation is influenced by how we look at the world at large. Every worldview, Christian and non-Christian, deals with at least these three questions:

- 1) Where did we come from? (and why are we here?)
- 2) What is wrong with the world?
- 3) How can we fix it?