



OCTOBER 29

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

PRIVILEGE, PITFALLS, & SIGNPOSTS

GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued our series, *The Gospel of God*, and learned that the nation of Israel was privileged as God's chosen people, yet missed the mark; but Christ came to redeem that story and now He invites all people into a privileged life with Him.

Begin this study by resting on this following verse. What does the Lord want to say to you through this passage? Be sure to write down anything He gives you.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What are one or two insights that stuck with you from the weekend message?
2. Based on your notes from the weekend message, how would you describe the privilege and calling by God you have been given?
3. As Christ-followers, we have the amazing privilege of being sons and daughters of God, who is the King over all creation. All the promises given to Israel have been given to us as well. Read the following passages and respond to the questions below.
 - Galatians 3:26-29
 - Ephesians 1:3-14
 - a. Based on Galatians 3:26-29, how can a person enter God's Kingdom? What privileges do we receive as God's children?
 - b. As you read and meditate on Ephesians 1:3-14, list all the blessings we receive in Christ.
4. As Joel explained, privilege is a beautiful thing we have as Christ-followers, but if we lose sight of our greater purpose we can easily run into some potential pitfalls. He highlighted the following three areas:
 - *Privilege Doesn't ... Hide the Mess*
 - *Privilege Doesn't ... Fight for Dominance*
 - *Privilege Doesn't ... Run from Threats*

- a. How are you doing in these three areas? As you reflect on your life regarding each area, write down any strengths or weaknesses that come to mind.
 - b. Often our past messes can be the very thing that builds our character in Christ. How has God transformed you from past messes?
 - c. When we allow God to work through our messes, that transformation can bring encouragement and hope to those who are dealing with similar things. How has the Lord used your story of transformation to help others?
 - d. Describe a time when you felt the need to dominate. What do you believe was happening in your heart in that moment?
 - e. When, if ever, have you felt fearful or threatened when speaking about your faith?
 - f. Read what the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 6:19-20. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the bold confidence of Paul? Make his words your own and say them as a prayer over yourself.
5. In Romans 2:29, Paul is saying to the Jews that a true child of God is someone who has had a "*circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit.*" In other words, a true believer of God is one who has received the Holy Spirit and now lives by the Spirit. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27.
- a. Based on these verses, what is promised to us as we trust the Spirit to work in our hearts?
6. We have a calling to not only be transformed and live in light of the truth, but we are made to be a light in the darkness, testifying to the truth of Jesus. Read Matthew 5:13-16.
- a. How might we lose our saltiness and dim His light in us?
 - b. How does being salt and light affect the way you are in your workplace, in your family, your friendships, or at your school? How have we as Christ-followers been equipped to do that well?
7. In the message, we looked at Philippians 3:3-8. Read this passage again. Paul gave up all his privileges for something exceedingly better. What does Paul say he has gained by running hard after Jesus?
- a. Following Paul's example, what worldly privileges might you need to give up in order to do the same?
8. As you finish your time with the Lord, ask Him what steps you can take to grow in any areas of weakness that stood out to you from the message and this study. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*" Embrace this truth for yourself and be sure to praise Him for those areas where He has already strengthened you!