

The Gospel is the announcement of what Jesus did to save and restore us through His birth, life, death, and resurrection. Our salvation is found in no other place than the work of Christ on our behalf. There are many in the world throughout the ages that have turned the Gospel from good news to bad news by moving its focus away from Jesus and onto *someone* or *something* else. This is why it is important to guard the truth of the Gospel.

How have you seen the Gospel moved away from Jesus to something else?

- ♦ **Guarding can be agony – Col 2:1-5 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you...**

The word that Paul uses for struggle is the word *agon* which is where we get our word agony. We must pour into our lives an understanding that the Bible is truth, God is triune, and the Gospel is Christ’s work to save us. Guarding can be hard, but we must contend for the truth.

In what ways have you “struggled” for others to know the truth? Have you ever disciplined someone else?

- ♦ **Guard “the whole package”**

The fullness of God’s word shows us Jesus; God’s word will always take us deeper into Him. Without God’s revelation of Himself, we would be left to do guesswork about how God wants us to think, act, and live—so we guard the whole package and not just specific aspects that may appeal to our preferences. The Bible gives us everything we need to know about Him, and that is why *He* is our message.

How does the entire narrative arc of Scripture inform who Jesus is?

- ♦ **Guard against the plausible, not just the outrageous**

Many are deluded with plausible arguments that have led them away from the truth. The truth mixed with a lie is a lie. “Plausible arguments” means persuasive language. Plausible arguments that fall short end up in two systems of thought. One moves us away from the fact that **doctrine matters**. The second always diminishes Christ and becomes **human-centered**. Our focus is not on us; it must always be on Jesus.

What “plausible” arguments have you heard, or even adhered to? How can we grow in Godly discernment and recognize false “plausible” arguments?

- ♦ **Guard your faith in Christ**

What is the centrality of the cross in our understanding? The Gospel is not about intellectualism or emotions; it engages both. We need to diligently move toward growing in our knowledge and wisdom as we become rooted in Him.

What does it mean to walk with Jesus?