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Monday

1Cor. 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Until you're willing to receive the gospel it doesn't make sense. Yet, once you receive it, all of life is seen more clearly. The gospel explains the suffering of man, even the ecological mess of the earth. Cancer, heartache, broken relationships, all find explanation in the gospel. Sadly, too few believers think deeply upon such things. For many the gospel seems to impact only upon 'church'. But the gospel message is the key to understanding and living in this broken world. Think deeply upon the gospel today. Not just its end results, but upon the fullness of its wisdom. Apply it to your world and see more clearly.

Tuesday

1Cor. 1:18 For the word of the cross ... is the power of God.

There is no better place to put the gospel to work than in your personal relationships. As you deal with obstinate people or situations, meditate upon God's patience with you. As you deal with those who have offended you, think upon God's forgiveness of your rebellion and sin. As you feel put-upon and put-out, think of God's bearing with you. The gospel is all about how you deal with others and troubled situations. Begin to ask yourself how the gospel enters into your relationships. How does your receiving the grace of God impact your graciousness? How does your forgiveness impact your willingness to forgive? How does your understanding of your own fallen nature cause you to look differently at others?

Wednesday

1Cor. 1:18 For the word of the cross ... is the power of God.

One means of salvation—only one means! Man is sinful, totally so. That includes you. No work or wish or human washing can undo that fact. Each, including you, is deserving of hell. None is any more deserving of condemnation than you. That too is part of the gospel. But for the cross, the cross of Christ, you would perish without hope. God's one plan, one means, one settled payment is the death of His beloved Son on that cross. Breathe in that fact. Let it settle more deeply in your soul than any other thought. You did not deserve God's mercy. You cannot earn it. All sinners stand on the same footing before God. You and I, your parents, your children: it is the power of the cross alone which brings relief.

Thursday

Is. 52:7 How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!

Good news is for sharing! Think upon the wonder of the gospel. Breathe it deeply and often. Understand how full are its riches. You a sinner, lost, condemned, hell bound, without understanding, alienated from God and others, without hope of reconciliation, no riches to buy your freedom, no good deeds good enough: you were saved by the mercy and grace of God. The deeper you think upon these things, the more often you ponder their depth—the easier you will find your ability to share your hope. Let the gospel saturate your thinking and your witness.

Friday

Gal. 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel

The gospel must be protected from all enemies. From those who pollute it by adding unnecessary works and from those who dilute it by claiming Jesus death was less than necessary or all religions are the same. Be careful in your own thinking. Be mindful of your own speaking. Make sure you understand the exclusivity of the gospel. There is but one way—the cross. There is but one savior—Jesus. There is but one salvation—the gospel. There is but one means—by grace through faith.