

The Long-Haul Gospel, Part 1

Galatians 3:1-3; 1:6-7

(Preacher: Ken Werlein)

1. If you're a follower of Christ, when did the message of the gospel (the "Great Exchange") first "click" for you?
2. Read the story in Acts 8:30-39, about Philip and the Ethiopian, and then share:
 - a. Who was instrumental in helping you to understand and believe the message of God's great love and grace extended to you through Christ's sacrifice on the cross?
 - b. Verse 39 says the man went away rejoicing. Describe the way you felt and how your life was different as a brand-new Christian (see 2 Corinthians 5:17).
3. We can all fall prey to the "Christian treadmill" and end up going through the motions without our heart being in it. In addition to the Galatians text, look at the following verses and discuss some practical ways we can keep from being drawn into the exhausting treadmill mindset:
 - a. John 5:24
 - b. John 10:27-29
 - c. Luke 10:38-42
 - d. Romans 8:38-39
 - e. Ephesians 2:8-9
4. In the message we were challenged to ponder the following: "Do people who know you well think you live the way you do SO THAT God will accept you? Or, do they understand you live the way you do BECAUSE God has accepted you in Christ?" How did you answer?
5. Do you think you might have essentially handed back to God the gift of His grace somewhere along the way? Why are we vulnerable to this?
6. Pastor Ken gave us the following first stanza of a prayer and suggested we memorize it:

"In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make You love me more, and nothing I have done that makes You love me less."

 - a. What Scriptures does this bring to mind?
 - b. What do you see as a potential benefit of committing this to memory?