

The Gospel and Addiction

Goals of the Series

- ❖ To submit fully to the teaching from God's Word
- ❖ To discover what God's Word says about modern controversial topics
- ❖ How are we as Christians to engage with each of these topics
- ❖ Become equipped to take the Gospel in the culture

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. - Romans 12:1-2

"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church Put your finger on any prosperous page in the Church's history, and [you] will find a little marginal note [that says]: 'In this age [people] could readily see where the Church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the Church and the world were joined in marriage with one another." Charles Spurgeon

The Word is my only source of authority

- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT personal.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT organizational.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT intellectual.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT psychological.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT experiential.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is ONLY biblical.

Goals of this particular night

- ❖ Understand what that Bible says about being addicted to certain vices
- ❖ Understand how the Bible responds certain habits
- ❖ Understand the role of God in a person's life
- ❖ Reflect on our own personal walk with Jesus

Questions/concerns/challenges we face regarding this issue

- ❖ 58% of high schoolers have used alcohol before graduation
- ❖ 35% of high schoolers have used marijuana before graduation
- ❖ 24% have used illegal drugs before graduation

- ❖ Most teens spend approximately 9 hours a day looking at a screen (apart from schooling/homework)
 - Over 7 hours on their phones
- ❖ A recent survey said 97% of boys (80% of girls) have admitted to watching pornography before the age of 20.
- ❖ Secular research even says addiction can lead to frequent mood swings, neglecting appearance and hygiene, eating disorders, deterioration of family relationships, low grades, and aggressive or violent behavior

Gospel Foundations

“The gospel is the good news that the only true God, the just and gracious Creator of the universe, has looked upon hopelessly sinful men and women and has sent His Son, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin through His substitutionary death on the cross and to show His power over sin and death through His resurrection from the grave so that everyone who turns from their sin and themselves and trusts in Jesus alone as Savior and Lord will be reconciled to God forever.” - David Platt

- ❖ God is our gracious Creator and we belong to Him

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Colossians 1:16 - For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him

- ❖ He is holy and He is our Judge, which makes us accountable to Him

Revelation 4:8 - Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Psalms 7:8 - The Lord judges the peoples; vindicate me, Lord, according to my righteousness and my integrity.

Romans 2:6-11 - He will repay each one according to his works: eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; but wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness. There will be affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and

also to the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For there is no favoritism with God.

- ❖ God made man and woman wonderfully and uniquely

Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

- ❖ All human beings became morally evil and corrupted by sin

Genesis 3:6-7 - The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

John 8:34 - Jesus responded, "Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.

- ❖ All human beings are born choosing sin rather than choosing God

Romans 1:18-20 - For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, 19 since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse.

Psalm 51:5 - Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

- ❖ All human beings became separate from God and deserve death

Isaiah 59:2 - But your iniquities are separating you from your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not listen.

Romans 6:23a - "For the wages of sin is death..."

- ❖ We are spiritually dead (Do not miss this)

Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned

How can God express His holiness without consuming us in our sin?

How can God express His love without condoning us in our sin?

How can God judge sin and justify the sinner at the same time?

How can God satisfy Himself and save us at the same time?

*“You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary” -
Jonathan Edwards*

❖ Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and restore us to God

1 Timothy 2:5-6 - For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.

❖ Jesus lived a life we could not live

1 John 3:5 - You know that he was revealed so that he might take away sins, and there is no sin in him.

❖ Jesus died the death we deserve to die

1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

❖ The essence of sin:

- Man substitutes himself for God.
- Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be.

❖ The essence of salvation:

- God substitutes Himself for man.
- God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be.

❖ We are saved both by God and from God

The Gospel does not end here, but we must give a personal response.

- ❖ God calls all people in all nations to repent and believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins

Luke 24:45-47 - Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He also said to them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

- ❖ This involves turning from all sin, and submitting to the Christ's Lordship

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- ❖ All who have faith in Jesus will be reconciled to God forever

Ephesians 2:4-7 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

- ❖ In Christ, we experience a new life, with a new heart, mind, and attitude through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

Titus 3:4-7 - But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.

John 16:8-14 - When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: About sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For

he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

- ❖ Gospel-centered faith will lead to a Gospel-centered lifestyle

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

- ❖ Heaven is a glorious reality for those who trust Jesus, and hell is a dreadful reality for those who die without Christ

Phil. 3:20-21 - Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself

Rev. 20:11-15 - Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

- ❖ No one decides to “make Jesus Lord of their life.” He already is! The only question is “will I submit to His Lordship?”

Philippians 2:9-11 - For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Gospel and Addiction

- ❖ God made humans to be worshipful creatures

Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

- ❖ Specifically, God created humans to worship Him

Psalm 73:25-26 - Who do I have in heaven but you? And I desire nothing on earth but you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart, my portion forever.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

- ❖ The essence of sin is refusing God's design and becoming our own "gods"

Genesis 2:16-17 - And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."

Genesis 3:4-6 - "No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

- ❖ Through sin, our worship and love becomes displaced and distorted

Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it?

Romans 7:19 - For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do.

- ❖ Our love becomes more for created things, rather than the Creator Himself

Romans 1:22-23 - Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.

1 John 2:15-16 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

❖ Addiction (to anything other than God) is a form of idolatry

Exodus 20:4-5 - Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,

Colossians 3:5 - Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.

❖ Who is ultimately behind this? Satan, the “god” of this world

2 Corinthians 4:4 - In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 John 5:19 - We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.

❖ Let us not be fooled. Satan is an extremely powerful being that desires all people burn in hell for eternity with him

1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

Revelation 20:10 - The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

❖ This is why any form of idolatry and addiction is ultimately giving our worship to Satan (this sounds intense but it’s the exact same logic that Paul uses in 1 Corinthians)

1 Corinthians 10:18-21 - Consider the people of Israel. Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? What am I saying then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I do say that what they sacrifice, they

sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons! You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot share in the Lord's table and the table of demons.

- ❖ The greatest hardship Christians face in America is not persecution from the world, it is seduction by the world

1 John 2:16 - For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

- ❖ Therefore, New Testament believers are commanded to flee from all idolatry

1 John 5:21 - Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

1 Corinthians 10:14 - So then, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Why do people get addicted?

- ❖ Misunderstanding of who God is/what He offers

John 10:10 - A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

- ❖ Misunderstandings of their freedom in Christ

1 Corinthians 6:12 - "Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything.

- ❖ Fell into temptation

James 1:14 - But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

- ❖ Fell into the devil's schemes

Genesis 3:1 - Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Popular Addictions

Alcohol

- ❖ Underage drinking is a sin because it is a form of breaking the law

Romans 13:1-2 - Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God. So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves.

- ❖ The Bible permits drinking...

Luke 7:33-34 - For John the Baptist did not come eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

1 Timothy 5:23 - Don't continue drinking only water, but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

- ❖ But forbids abundant drinking

Ephesians 5:18 - And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit:

Proverbs 20:1 - Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler; whoever goes astray because of them is not wise.

- ❖ Drunkenness ultimately hinders our ability to pray and advance the Kingdom of God

1 Peter 4:7-11 - The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Drug Use/Smoking

- ❖ Drugs harm God's design for your body

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 - Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and that is what you are

- ❖ Narcotics will numb the senses, destroying our ability of good judgment and sensitivity to right and wrong

1 Peter 1:13-15 - Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.

- ❖ Using drugs to numb a pain, have peace, or find joy are ultimately replacing narcotics with something only God can do

Exodus 15:2 - The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

Exodus 15:26 - For I am the Lord who heals you.

Overeating

- ❖ God created us to eat

Genesis 1:29-30 - God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that

crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

❖ God cares about what we eat

Romans 14:1-3 - Welcome anyone who is weak in faith, but don't argue about disputed matters. One person believes he may eat anything, while one who is weak eats only vegetables. One who eats must not look down on one who does not eat, and one who does not eat must not judge one who does, because God has accepted him.

❖ The condemns overeating

Proverbs 25:16 - If you find honey, eat only what you need; otherwise, you'll get sick from it and vomit.

Philippians 3:18-19 - For I have often told you, and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame; and they are focused on earthly things.

Image/Under-eating

❖ Christians should be careful in not idolizing how they look

1 Samuel 16:7 - But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.”

❖ Honor God with how you look/what you wear

1 Timothy 1:8-10 - Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument. Also, the women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or expensive apparel, but with good works, as is proper for women who profess to worship God.

1 Peter 3:3-4 - Don't let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes, but rather what is inside the heart—the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

Sexual Immorality/Pornography

- ❖ Flee from all sexual perversion

2 Timothy 2:22 - Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart

Materialism/Possession/Buying things

- ❖ Things are good, but things are not God

Matthew 6:19-24 - "Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness, how deep is that darkness! No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

- ❖ Wealth could possibly lead us away from God

Matthew 16:26 - For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life?

- ❖ Use worldly wealth to help others

1 John 3:17 - If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him?

- ❖ Treasure God above all things

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Digital Media/Video Games/Social Media/Cell Phones

- ❖ Most popular teenage entertainment celebrates sin, and we often turn a blind eye

Romans 1:32 - Although they know God's just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve to die—they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.

- ❖ Christians are to fill their minds with edifying and uplifting things

Philippians 4:8-9 - Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things. Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

- ❖ Use the time the Lord has given you wisely

James 4:14 - Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes.

Ephesians 5:15 - Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

Objections/Questions:

- ❖ Can I smoke marijuana if it's for medicinal purposes?
 - Lean on the advice of medical professionals
 - Use wisely for sole purpose of physical relief, not for emotional or spiritual relief
- ❖ Are all smart phones/social media sites/video games of the devil?
 - God has given good gifts to his children
 - May we use them sparingly and wisely

Practical Takeaways:

- ❖ How do I overcome my addiction?
 - Prayer

John 15:7 - If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you

- Make your wants God's wants
- Ask for whatever you want

Deuteronomy 6:4 - "Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

➤ Fast

- Few of us do it, most of us avoid it
- The Bible commands it!

Matthew 6:16-18 - "Whenever you fast, don't be gloomy like the hypocrites. For they disfigure their faces so that their fasting is obvious to people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting isn't obvious to others but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

- We fast because we're hungry for God's Word, power, and His glory in our lives

Matthew 4:4 - He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

- We fast to anticipate the return of His Son

Matthew 9:14-15 - Then John's disciples came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests be sad while the groom is with them? The time will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

- More than we long for our addictions to be carried out, we long for His Kingdom to come in our lives

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heave

- ❖ How does prayer & fasting help me overcome my addictions/idolatry?
 - We serve a God that we cannot fathom that will always leave us wanting more

Exodus 33:18 - Then Moses said, "Please, let me see your glory."

- ❖ We serve a God that is good

Psalm 34:8:10 - Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the person who takes refuge in him!

- ❖ We serve a God that is great

Psalm 145:3 - The Lord is great and is highly praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

- ❖ Our addictions/idolatry leave us broken and empty.
- ❖ Christianity is a relationship where we are spiritually filled.
 - In a world that is spiritually dead, Christ gives us everlasting life

Ephesians 2:1-10 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

- In a world that is spiritually starving, Christ gives us eternal food

John 6:35 - "I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again.

- In a world that is spiritually thirsty, Christ gives us an abundant fountain

John 4:13-14 - Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

- In a world that is spiritually empty, Christ makes us full

John 10:10 - A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

- ❖ All our addictions utterly fail in comparison with the privilege we have

Exodus 33:7-11 - Now Moses took a tent and pitched it outside the camp, at a distance from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. Anyone who wanted to consult the Lord would go to the tent of meeting that was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would stand up, each one at the door of his tent, and they would watch Moses until he entered the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and remain at the entrance to the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. As all the people saw the pillar of cloud remaining at the entrance to the tent, they would stand up, then bow in worship, each one at the door of his tent. The Lord would speak with Moses face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend, then Moses would return to the camp. His assistant, the young man Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the inside of the tent.

- A relationship that Old Testament prophets and angels could only dream about

1 Peter 1:10-12 - Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who prophesied about the grace that would come to you, searched and carefully investigated. They inquired into what time or what circumstances the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating when he testified in advance to the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you. These things have now been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.

- You are the tent!

Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

Recommended Reading

For further study on the topics covered in tonight's sessions, see the resources listed below. Please note, however, that Hope Chapel Youth ministry does not endorse everything contained in these resources. As always, we urge you to examine these resources and the topics covered in this study in light of the truths of God's Word.

- ❖ *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer
- ❖ *A Hunger for God: Desiring God through Fasting and Prayer*, John Piper,
- ❖ *Living the Cross-Centered Life*, C.J. Mahaney,
- ❖ *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Donald S Whitney

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