

# Christ-Centered Application

## Moving Toward Christ-Centered Application

### *The Word of God is designed to... (Hebrews 4:12-16)*

1. ...expose the sinful condition of your heart... (4:12-13)  
...so that you will **repent**
2. ...apply Christ's grace solution to your heart... (4:14-16)  
...so that you will **believe**

### *Repentance: Godly sorrow over your sin (2 Corinthians 7:8-11)*

1. What it is not: Worldly sorrow that leads to death
2. What it is: Godly sorrow that leads to repentance
3. What it brings: Salvation without regret

### *Belief: Viewing Christ crucified for your sin (Galatians 3:1-5)*

1. What it is not: Human effort in the Law
2. What it is: Believing
3. What it involves: Thinking, Being, Acting

## The Practice of Christ-Centered Application

### *Life-Changing Application*

- Determining what the Spirit wants to communicate to us through the Word
- Not merely communicating principles
- Not simply resolving to try harder at living the Christian life
- Leading people to see and savor the glory of Jesus Christ

### *Fallen Condition Focus*

"The Fallen Condition Focus is the mutual human condition that contemporary believers share with those to or for whom the text was written that requires the grace of the passage." (Brian Chapel in *Christ Centered Preaching*, 41).

The Fallen Condition recognizes that we are incomplete and in need due to...

- ...our own sinfulness
- ...the world's brokenness

### Questions to ask

- What do we share in common with those it written to or with the one who wrote the passage? What are differences between our cultures or situations?
- What does God want you to understand and embrace about yourself?
  - What does this passage invite or exhort you to become?
  - How does this passage challenge you to think differently about God?
  - What false beliefs does it expose?
  - What kind of person do you need to be to live out the truths in this passage?
  - What character issues in your life produce resistance to living out these truths?
  - What sin condition(s) in your life does this passage expose or address?
  - Be sure to ask yourself, "What is the sin beneath the sin?" How do you need to repent?

## **Christ Solution**

For every fallen condition there is a solution. This solution always points to Christ—something He offers to us or something that is true of us because of our position in Him.

The Christ Solution...

- ...realizes that God uses the text to reveal his plans and purposes to redeem humanity
- ...leads people away from human-centered religiosity
- ...ensures that God is the hero of every text

Questions to ask

- What does God want you to understand and embrace about the gospel?
  - How does the work and power of Christ address this fallen condition?
  - What aspect of the gospel does God want you to embrace?
    - Is it freedom from the penalty of sin?
    - Is it freedom from the power of sin?
  - What would it look like for you to embrace this aspect of the gospel?
- In light of what you have written in the previous questions, how is God leading you to respond to Him in and through this passage?

## **Christ-Centered Application in Matthew 6:25-34**

What are the commands to apply?

What is a Fallen Condition addressed by the passage?

What is a Christ Solution pointed to in the passage?

What is a specific way you need to respond to God through this passage?