

Handout

Session Four: Applying Law and Gospel

Memory Verse: "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

In the context of war, saying the wrong thing to the wrong person at the wrong time can be a deadly mistake. But even off the battlefield, our words can have serious and unintentional consequences if we do not choose and speak them carefully. Sometimes we say too much, sometimes too little. Sometimes we say the wrong thing; sometimes we speak at the wrong time.

1. Think of a time when your words had results that were unintended. What was the cause of these unexpected results? What could you have said or done differently?

2. Read Acts 20:24 and Romans 10:16-17. How does Paul describe his task as a preacher? Why is his task a necessary one?

3. Read Matthew 5:17-20 and Psalm 19:12. Why is it necessary that God's servants faithfully proclaim the Law as well as the Gospel?

4. Compare the sermons recorded in Acts 2:22-39 and Acts 3:13-26. How does Peter apply both Law and Gospel to his hearers? In what order are they proclaimed? Why?

5. Compare Matthew 19:16–26 and Acts 16:25–33. What answers are given to the question asked in these passages? What may account for the different responses given?

6. Read Galatians 3:26–29 and Titus 3:4–7. What is related to the Gospel in these passages? How is it related?

7. Read Matthew 26:26–28. What is related to the Gospel in these passages? How is it related?

8. Read Ephesians 5:25–27. Compare John 8:31–32 and Romans 16:17. How do these passages describe the relationship between the Gospel and the church?