The Gospel Course
Jonathan K. Dodson | Citizens Church | Fall 2024

Course Purpose

The gospel of Jesus Christ is simple enough for a child to grasp and so complex an adult can ponder it for eternity. But to appreciate its simplicity, we need a growing understanding of the gospel's complexity. American polymath Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "I would not give a fig for the simplicity this side of complexity, but I would give my life for the simplicity the other side of complexity."

This course will expose you to the depth, breadth, and diversity of the gospel. In addition, it will help you identify false gospels which threaten true joy. Through study, discussion, the key project, and the Spirit's power, you will arrive at the gospel simplicity on the other side of complexity, stirred to give your life to the good news.

Course Expectations

St. Paul urges us to "discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness" for benefit in this life and the life to come. In order to get the most out of this class, we ask that you:

- Attend 90% of the classes & complete the exercises
- Participate in group discussions
- Complete the key project

The final step in learning is communication. You are expected to share what you are learning with someone outside the class, e.g. discipleship group, home group, family devo.

Books

Required: Jonathan Dodson, *The Gospel*
Recommended: Patrick Schreiner, *Political Gospel: Public Witness in a Politically Crazy World*

Course Overview:

8/29: **Orientation & The Good News**
- Dodson ch. 1 (to be completed in class) & do exercises. *Optional:* Schreiner, ch.

9/5: **Defining the Gospel**
- Dodson, ch. 2 & do exercises. *Optional:* Schreiner, Intro & ch. 1.

9/12: **Responding to the Gospel**
- Dodson, ch. 3 & do exercises. *Optional:* Schreiner, ch. 2-3.

9/19: **Gospel Metaphors**
- Dodson, ch. 4 & do exercises. *Optional:* Schreiner, ch. 7-9.

9/26: **Another Gospel**
- Dodson, ch. 5 & do exercises. *Optional:* Schreiner, ch. 5.

10/3: **In Step with the Gospel**
- Dodson, ch. 6 & do exercises. *Optional:* Schreiner, ch. 4, 6
- Turn in *Key Project*