

GOSPEL EMPHASES FOR RHC

**SESSION 6
CHRIST'S WORK IS RICH
AND RELEVANT**

Handbook

GOSPEL EMPHASES FOR RHC

For the next 7 weeks, our church will be embarking on a series called “Gospel Emphases for RHC” – diving into 4 aspects of the gospel that we hope for our church to grow in understanding so that we can know and love Jesus more deeply.

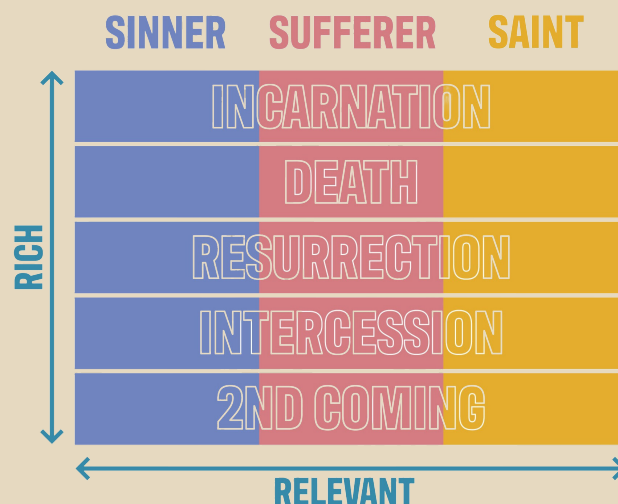
These 4 aspects that we are emphasising are not an attempt to define the gospel comprehensively or write a “creed” for RHC. Rather, it is something that is specifically contextualised for RHC, in response to the areas that we feel like we may be weaker in understanding the Good News of Jesus for us in our church. We hope that these emphases and tools give us a common language as we use them throughout the life of our church, to strengthen our faith individually and collectively at RHC.

These 4 emphases are:

- The gospel is Good News Not Implications
- The gospel is about a Person, Not a Philosophy
- Christ’s Work is Rich & Relevant
- The gospel Changes Us at a Heart Level

In our CG study over the next few weeks, we’ll be focusing largely on the first two emphases.

Today, we’ll dive into the third one: Christ’s Work is Rich & Relevant



This represents how the various strands of Jesus’ work (incarnation, death, resurrection, intercession, 2nd coming) each apply to us as sinners, sufferers, and saints. To see how these various elements interact, refer to the Gospel Matrix.



GROUP WORK & DISCUSSION

10 MINS

Numeric Label/ Alphabet Label	Incarnation (IC)	Death (D)	Resurrection (R)	Intercession (IN)	Second Coming (SC)
1	John 1:14	1 John 3:16	1 Peter 1:3	Hebrews 7:25	Hebrews 9:28
2	Galatians 4:4	Colossians 2:14	Romans 1:4	Romans 8:34	2 Peter 3:10
3	Romans 1:3	Hebrews 2:14	1 Corinthians 15:20	John 17:9	John 14:3

What has Jesus done, or is doing in these passages?

Why did Jesus do it?

ASPECTS OF CHRIST'S WORK

When we speak of Christ's work, we often mistakenly reduce his work to his death and resurrection. However, his work is far richer than that. The full scope of Christ's work in scripture includes:

- **His incarnation.** Jesus took on human flesh, has ever since remained bodily, and will do so for all eternity.
- **His death and resurrection.** Jesus came to die to take our sins and punishment. He rose again from the dead on the third day not only to break the power of our sins but to bring in the beginning of God's new creation.
- **His intercession.** Christ who has ascended to Heaven is interceding, or praying, for His people so that their faith may not fail, and that their sins may be forgiven.
- **His second coming.** Christ will one day return to judge all who oppose Him and to glorify all who love him.

Christ's Incarnation			
Finished work		Ongoing work	
Death	Resurrection	Intercession	Second Coming

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CHRIST'S WORK

The death and resurrection of Christ are often known as His finished work, while his intercession and second coming are his ongoing work.

The finished work of Christ is the heart of the gospel. It is the centrepiece of the good news that God saves sinners. The gospel grants us access to Christ's ongoing work, which is His intercession and His second coming.

His finished work grounds his ongoing work. Christ's intercession is grounded in his death and resurrection. As He prays to the Father, he says, "Father, you cannot punish this sinner again, because you have already punished his sins on me at the cross".

His second coming completes the work that He has begun. He comes again to save bodily those whom He had already died and risen for.

At the same time, Christ has done and continues to do his work in his incarnation. Only Christ in his humanity can die, be resurrected, become our Great High Priest to intercede on our behalf and return as the final conqueror and ruler of the New Heaven and New Earth.

IMPORTANCE OF SEEING THE EXPANSIVE WORK OF CHRIST: HOPE IN OUR FAILURE AND FOR THE FUTURE

When we narrow his work to His death and resurrection, we inadvertently reduce our salvation to a point in time, while forgetting that God is in the process of saving us. When that happens, we can feel as though past the point of salvation, we're on our own: we have to depend on our strength and righteousness to fight sin, and when we fail, we despair or doubt our salvation.

However, the Bible speaks about salvation as an ongoing process. The manner in which God continues to save us is Christ's ongoing work. This gives us hope to persevere in our faith as we trust that God is at work in us and anticipate how His work in us will be completed and we will be fully victorious over sin and suffering.

For example, His intercession guarantees that our sins are forgiven and that our faith will not fail, while his Second coming guarantees that on that final day, we will be fully and 'publicly' saved in the sight of all. We have experienced inward resurrection, but we will experience bodily resurrection; we have experienced adoption, but we will one day experience adoption in full; we are being transformed from one degree of glory into the next, but we will one day be glorious like Jesus.

IMPORTANCE OF SEEING THE EXPANSIVE WORK OF CHRIST: WORSHIPPING CHRIST FULLY

Second, narrowing the scope of His work to His death and resurrection ultimately, reduces our worship and impoverishes our relationship with Him. We know, appreciate and depend on Him less than we should.



CASE STUDY & APPLICATION

PETER
10 MINS

In a CG prayer session, Peter complains that his work environment is toxic. He often gets verbally abused at work and is treated unfairly as his boss favours his other colleagues. He often feels lousy about himself at work. At the same time, he also confesses that because he feels angry at the culture of his workplace, he also lashes out and mistreats those who work under him. He feels guilty about his sinful behaviour.

Passage	Aspect(s) of Christ's Work	How it Encourages or Addresses Peter's Work Situation
Example: Romans 8:3-4	<i>Incarnation and Death</i>	<i>God sent Jesus to become man so as to bear the penalty of our sin and to fulfil the righteous demands of God's law. Peter can know that God loves him because of Jesus' incarnation and that Christ came to live so as to fulfil the righteous requirement of God's standard for him personally, therefore since Peter is united to Jesus' righteousness, he can draw strength and grace from Jesus, knowing that he too can live rightly like Jesus and do not need to let the toxic culture at work to define him.</i>

Passage	Aspect(s) of Christ's Work	How it Encourages or Addresses Peter's Work Situation
Romans 8:9-11		
Romans 8:19-25		
Romans 8:33-34		
Romans 8:33-34		



REFLECTION & PRAYER

20 MINS

**Which aspect of Christ's rich work is new to you?
Which have you previously overlooked?**

Consider a sin you might be struggling with or suffering you might be going through. How might that aspect of Christ's work encourage you today?

**Share in pairs or trios and pray for one another.
Consider using the verses from Romans 8 to pray.**