

book of the month | September 2024

A Gospel Primer – Milton Vincent

Christians need to hear, and rehear and rehearse the gospel. *A Gospel Primer* by Milton Vincent is designed to help Christians do that. It accomplished the goal.

The gospel is the good news of God's love that Christians need. We need to know and believe this message to be saved. But we need to remember, rehearse, and believe this message daily in our efforts to obey, honor, and please God.

The gospel message is indeed simple. A child can understand it, but this good news is so profound; we can never plumb its depths. And it is so practical. Most of our problems as Christians in some way relate to forgetting (or not believing) the gospel (cf. 2 Peter 1:9). This is no superficial or theoretical treatment of the gospel. Vincent first explains why we need to rehearse the gospel to ourselves; then the rest of the book is his example of how we might go about actually doing that rehearsing. He models preaching the gospel to ourselves in prose (simple statements of declaration) and then poetry.

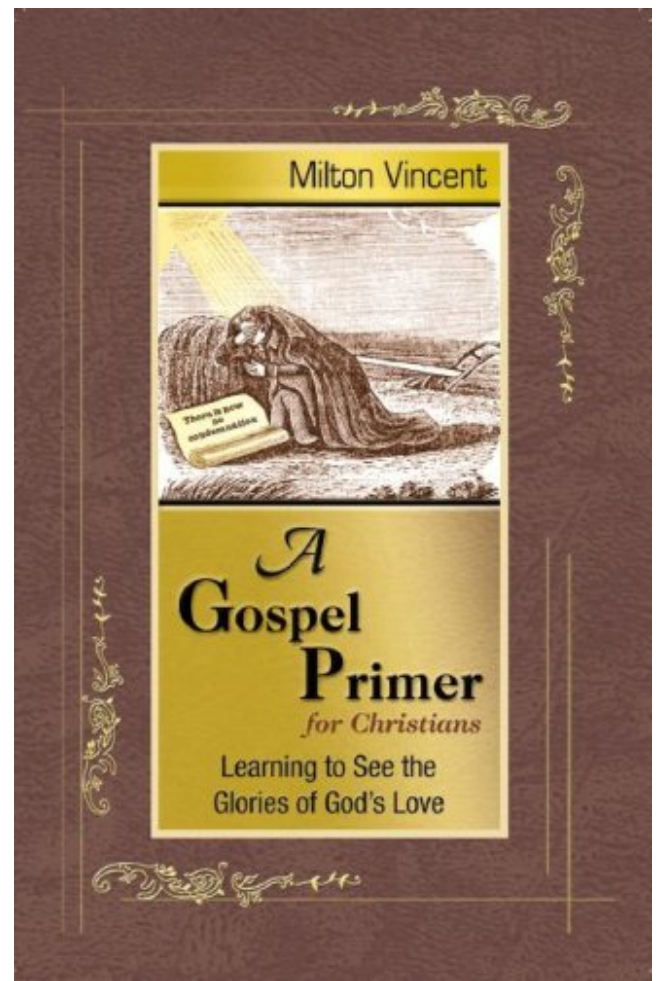
The Gospel Primer has been a close personal companion for me for the last 15 years. As many of you know, my family and I have been through quite a few trials in this time. God has sustained us, particularly with the gospel message. I read the following paragraph from this book (it's just one sample of so many good quotes I could pull), and the truth of this statement is often on my mind and in my heart: ***"The gospel enables me to embrace my tribulations and thereby position myself to gain full benefit from them. For the gospel is the one great permanent circumstance in which I live and move; and every hardship in my life is allowed by God only because it serves His gospel purposes in me. When I view my circumstances in this light, I realize that the gospel is not just one piece of good news that fits into my life somewhere among all the bad. I realize instead that the gospel makes genuinely good news out of every other aspect of my life, including my severest trials. The good news about my trials is that God is forcing them to bow to His gospel purposes and do good unto me by improving my character and making me more conformed to the image of Christ."***

This is just one of many life-changing, Bible-saturated, gospel-clarity quotes from this unique little book.

This is a great book to read front to back and then keep at your bedside and read slowly, maybe just a sentence or paragraph a day. In this way, *A Gospel Primer* has served me well, through slow consideration and meditation with the words on the pages and the many footnotes taking the reader to God's Words in Scripture. I strongly commend Milton Vincent's *Gospel Primer* to our church as a book whose message we must master and be mastered by.

Your pastor-elder.

Jacob Hantla



Suggested One-Month Reading Plan (Average 3 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday 9/2 - Sunday 9/8

Forward, 2 pages
Introduction, 5 pages
Part I Reasons to Rehearse the Gospel Daily, p. 11-27

Week 2: Monday 9/9 - Sunday 9/15

Part I Reasons to Rehearse the Gospel Daily, p. 27-54

Week 3: Monday 9/16 - Sunday 9/22

Part II A Gospel Narrative - Prose Version, p. 55-65
Part III A Gospel Narrative - Poetic Version, p. 67-78

Week 4: Monday 9/23 - Sunday 9/29

Part III A Gospel Narrative - Poetic Version, p. 79-88
Part IV Surprised by the Gospel, p. 89-97