

Heart Shepherding with the Gospel

THE UNREGENERATE MAN - consider how the truths about who you were before God saved you can help you shepherd your heart, for example:

- Strengthen your love for God and your desire to draw near to Him through His Word.
- Increase your humility.
- Inspire you to thank God and worship Him.
- Move you to mercy towards other sinners (consider Matthew 18:21-35) - grieving for sin, but being patient, gracious, and forgiving toward the sinner, equipped to be God's instrument to encourage them toward repentance.
- Embolden you to love the lost by proclaiming the gospel to them.

REGENERATION EVENT - consider how the truths of what God alone has accomplished for you in the gospel of Jesus Christ can help you shepherd your heart, for example:

- Inspire you to thank God and worship Him.
- Fuel your joy, peace, comfort and trust in the Lord.
- Turn you away from wrong thinking such as "God doesn't really love me or care about me."
- Guard you from being careless or indifferent about the seriousness of your sin.
- Grow your love and appreciation for the body of Christ as your brothers and sisters in the Lord, adopted by your heavenly Father - prioritizing your time with them and valuing your opportunities to serve them.
- Strengthen you to fight sin, especially when it seems overpowering, remembering that the old man is crucified and dead, and that you are no longer a slave to sin. You have Jesus, your glorious Savior, as your good Master now, and He enables you to walk in newness of life.
- Lead you to repent from self-righteousness, remembering that every good thing in you begins with God's gracious work in your life.
- Inspire you to perseverance and earnestness in humbly submitting to God and obeying Him.

THE REGENERATE MAN - consider how the truths of the condition you are now in as a believer can help you shepherd your heart, for example:

- Give you a sense of URGENCY of your need to shepherd your heart!
- Remind you of God's design for you to participate in your sanctification and to fight hard for obedience and growth in Christ.
- Grow in you a deep sense of reliance on God and His Word.
- Help you to battle discouragement over ongoing battles with sin and slowness of growth, reminding yourself that you are indeed in a battle, in a struggle to grow in holiness of life, and that your perseverance in the struggle is evidence of new life.
- Remind you that this mixed condition that both loves God and is still very weak is so much better than what you were before God saved you; this mixed condition is God's design.
- Encourage you that you have new abilities to fight sin.
- Inspire you to thank God that you can behold Christ in His Word, and that He strengthens you to love, trust, and obey Him.
- Give you a healthy wariness about your weaknesses, proneness to sin, and deceptiveness of heart.
- Fill you with compassion and mercy when other believers struggle with sin, and especially when they sin against you.

THE HEAVENLY MAN - Consider how the gospel truths about your future glorified condition with Christ can help you shepherd your heart, for example:

- Give you hope that you that you will see Christ face to face, and so strengthen your perseverance to purify yourself, fighting sin in every part of your life (1 Jn 3:3).
- Supply you with hope, encouragement, and perseverance in trials (Ro 8:18; 2 Co 4:17-18).
- Strengthen you to be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Co 15:58).
- Inspire you to thank God that one day your battle with sin will be over, and that you will be with Him forever!