

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 John 3:3*).
- Supply you with hope, encouragement, and perseverance in trials (*Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*).
- Strengthen you to be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (*1 Corinthians 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!