

## Acts 14:21-22

21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

## Psalm 116

12 What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

14 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

## Romans 1:11-15

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— 12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. 13 I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. 14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

## Community Group Study 13 June 2010



### Introduction

We need to stop thinking that we go to church, and start realizing that we need to be the church.

We want to see church as a gospel community. This gospel is not just the entry point into the family of the church; it is the entirety of church life. Our motivation for everything (and everything church-related) must come from our understanding of the gospel and who God is.

Living the "Christian life" without the gospel is worthless and leads to either pride or wretchedness. The Gospel makes us see God correctly. The bible is a book about God and the gospel of His salvation.

The gospel lets us love God more. Our love for God is not something we stir up from ourselves, but we know that "we love Him because He first loved us".

The gospel makes us hate sin. Sin is the antithesis of God. It is not just an obstacle or a weakness, but anti-God – we must hate it to the core.

The gospel will make us radical people. When we recognise the magnitude of the gospel, we are driven to give up everything, spare no expense, hold nothing back, endure obscene trials, love one another and submit to God's leading.

The radical community that arises from lives transformed by the gospel is called the church.

### Discussion

- >>What makes a church?
- >>What is the relationship between the Church and the hardships it goes through?
- >>How shall we "repay" God for all He has done for us, in spite of the difficulties we face?

### Explanation

- >>How do we explore and understand the gospel more?
- >>What is God's character?
- >>What is a gospel response to our material wealth?

### Application

- >>Do we understand the gospel enough that we can "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called" (Eph 4:1)?
- >>How can we relate to people in a way that reflects the gospel?
- >>Summarise the message of the bible. Now read the bible again in the light of that summary.