

Know the God of the Gospel

Paul's dramatic encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus is the bedrock for his understanding of the gospel. We can understand Paul's great letters as being meditations on this world-changing event. His mission and ministry flow out of this. Understanding the scope and the depth of the gospel gives us the motivation, the mandate, the methodology, the message and the model for church planting. This will prevent us working out of our projects, plans, strategies and skills, and drifting towards idolatry of ministry which is the antithesis of why we plant churches. Through the gospel, Paul kept a vision of a big God with whom he had a vital relationship, and this impacted directly on how he planted.

Tomáš Henžel is the Acts 29 Regional Lead for Central Europe. He is married to Silvia and they have 3 children. He is a bi-vocational church planter in Slovakia. After replanting in Nitra, their family has been planting out in Bratislava since the summer of 2018. Tomáš leads a small network of planters in Slovakia longing to see Christ's glory imaged in many new churches in the region.

I. Knowing God

A. Objectively

1. Paul the Pharisee
2. The Old Testament Scriptures

B. In Jesus Christ

1. Stephen the Martyr
2. Jealousy
3. Who are you Lord ?

4. The church as the body of Christ

- C. Personally

1. A chosen instrument
2. Suffering
3. Filled with the Spirit
4. Bold witness
5. Convincing apologetic
6. Church-planting mission
7. Consistent testimony in the epistles

- II. Knowing the gospel

- A. Paul's objective : personal knowledge of God in Jesus Christ is the gospel

- B. The depth and scope of the gospel is our message

C. The depth and scope of the gospel is our motivation

D. The depth and scope of the gospel is our method

E. The depth and scope of the gospel is our model

F. The depth and scope of the gospel is our mandate

Suggested Readings:

What is the gospel ? Greg Gilbert

The Explicit Gospel, Matt Chandler