

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.

Philip Moore has been pastoring and planting churches in the east of Paris for the past 12 years. He is currently European director for Acts 29, working to build relationships between local church-planting churches and church planters all over Europe. With over 50 countries and a population of over 700 million people the European continent, once the most Christianised in the world, is now a mission field. It is Philip's privilege, as European director of A29, to see what God is doing in our continent, and to encourage church-planting initiatives from Ireland to Turkey, from Denmark to Italy through assessment, coaching, training, and supporting of church planters and church-planting churches. Philip is married to Rachel, and they have 5 children.

J. D. Gilmore was born in Italy, where his parents were missionaries. God's grace opened his eyes to the good news of the gospel as a teenager. J. D. and his wife are passionate about the spread of the gospel in Italy, where they have been involved in church planting for many years. He now coordinates Impatto (Acts 29 in Italy) as well as being involved in setting up gospel-centred movements in Italy and the Balkans.

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