

## Week Four: The Spiritual Battle of Evangelism



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## Galatians

- ▶ The book of Galatians offers a window into the missionary strategy of Paul.
- ▶ The Reformers thought Galatians was a foundational book to preach through because it hammered out “what is the gospel”?
- ▶ This is why I will preach through Galatians this coming Spring!

JOHN M. G. BARCLAY

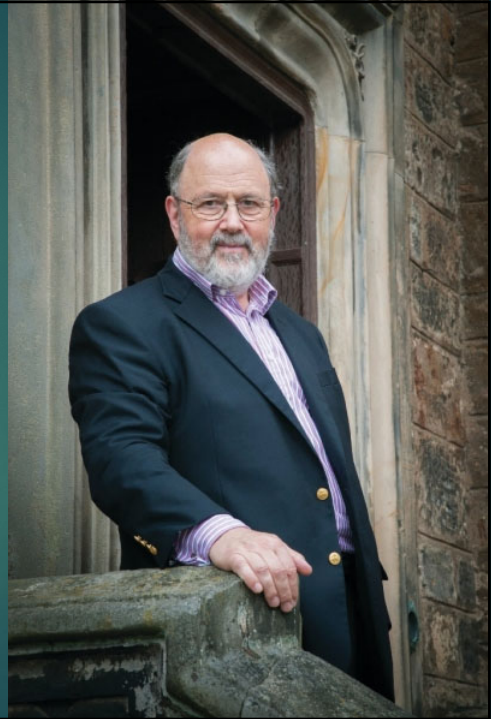


Paul and the Gift

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## Naturalism versus Eternity

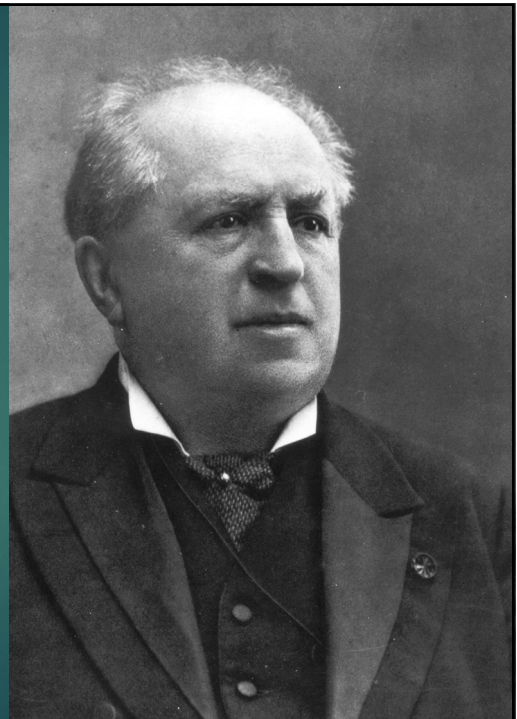
- ▶ In my opinion, the number one thing hurting churches in America (Protestant Evangelicals) is the lack of eternity in view.
- ▶ I'm growing increasingly worried bad habits in the academy are leaking into congregations through pastors.



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## Naturalism versus Eternity

- ▶ Why is theological naturalism popular? It generates a spirituality that is “this-worldly” and at times can mock the beatific vision.
- ▶ Listen to people give their testimonies within Presbyterianism. How do they speak about what happened when they became a Christian?
- ▶ We know conversion is important because we went over the Ethiopian Eunuch, Paul, and Cornelius in Acts.



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## Why Don't People Believe?

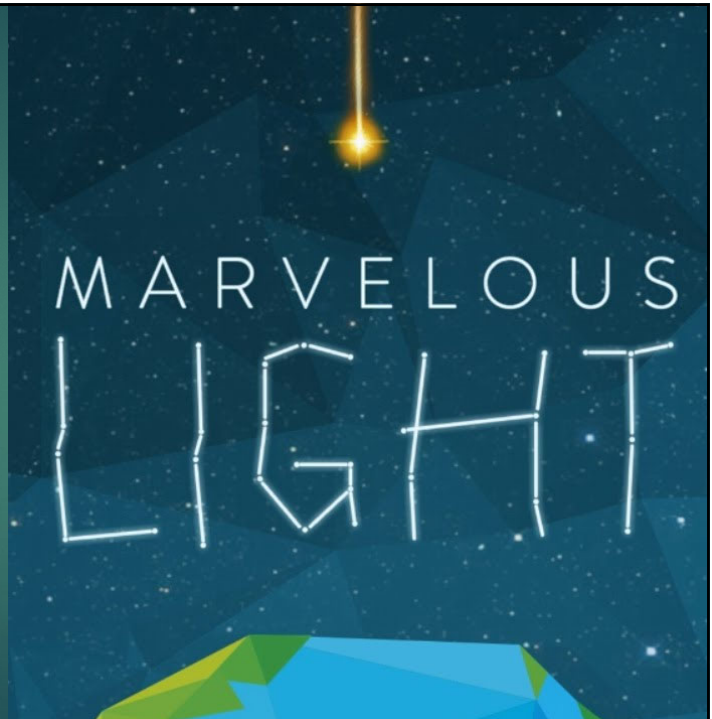
- ▶ **2 Corinthians 4:4** ESV “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- ▶ **Galatians 1:1-5** ESV “Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—<sup>2</sup> and all the brothers who are with me,
- ▶ To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>4</sup> who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,<sup>5</sup> to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.



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## What Happens When People Believe?

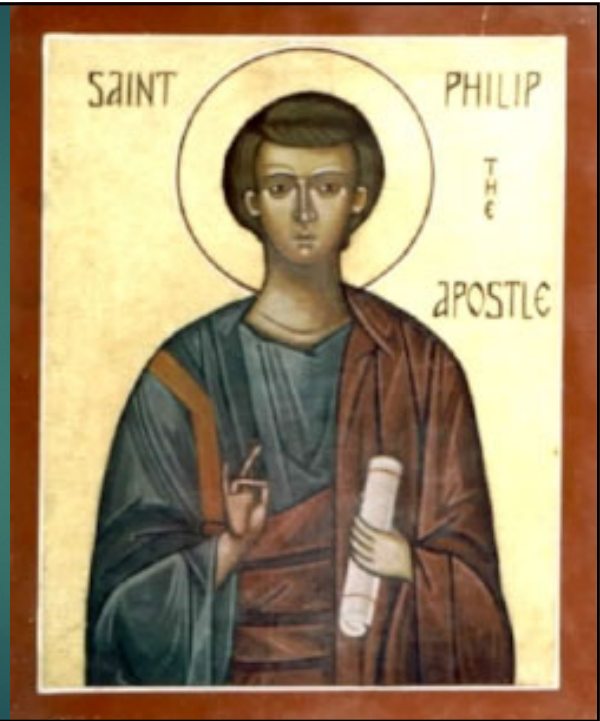
- ▶ **1 Colossians 1:13** ESV “<sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,”
- ▶ Read 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ▶ If we preach sermon series after sermon series, we can end up making the Bible into our own image. This is why I preach lectio continua.



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## How Do People Hear the Good News?

- ▶ **Preaching:** We learned this through the book of Acts.
- ▶ **Prayer:** We really need to be praying for people in our social networks who do not know the Lord.
- ▶ **People:** You need to be actively meeting and engaging with people who do not know the Lord.



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## Excuses?

- ▶ I have been thinking over the past months about baseball analogies.
- ▶ **Urgency:** we do ministry with a lack of urgency.
- ▶ **Excuse:** we make excuses. Remember the story of Philip? He is portrayed as an evangelist who is always sensitive to the work of the Spirit.



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## How Do We Respond?

- ▶ **First:** we acknowledge we live in a battle. I think the second we forget this, urgency is lost.
- ▶ **Second:** church history reveals that we have times of renewal and times of famine. What time period do we live in?
- ▶ **Third:** I think we need to continue to pray, daily, for the Lord to snap us out of our mechanistic worldview.

HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

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## Conclusions

- ▶ Let's snap out of the naturalistic view of spirituality.
- ▶ Let's be challenged by the language of Scripture.
- ▶ Let's be challenged by the great thinkers of the church.



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