

Annual Moore College Lectures

2012



The Point of the Sword

**Applying the Bible to the Work of Applying
the Bible**

Speaker: The Rev Chris Green

Lecture Series

Monday 20 to Friday 24 August



Lecture 1

Should We Apply the Bible?

"You, however, must teach what accords with sound doctrine"

1: "The Book about Me"

- a. The Bible is not a book about me
- b. The Bible is not a book about God
- c. The exception
- d. Either/Or
- e. And therefore...
- f. Honey and stars
- g. Lessons

2. Our guilty secret

3. The Good Life

a. Knowledge is complicated

b. Doing what is good

c. The Square of Opposition

d. Disobedient children

e. Lying Cretans

4. Why religion doesn't work

a. How the gospel teaches

b. How Titus is to teach

c. Turn your eyes

d. We are not alone

Lecture 2

Do We Apply the Bible?

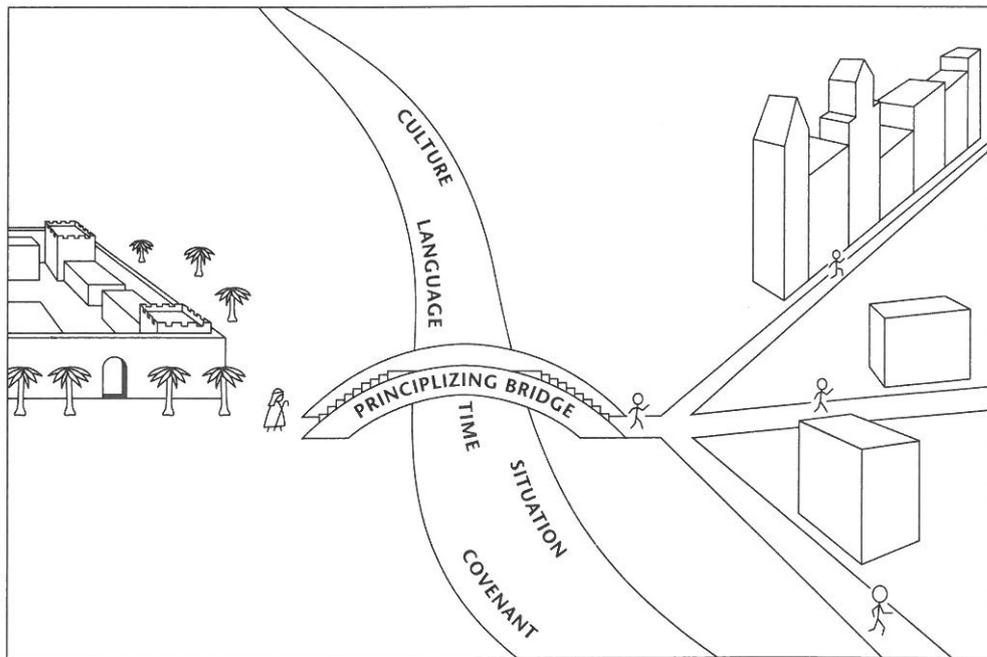
"For the grace of God has appeared; it teaches us to say no to ungodliness"

1. Bridging the Gap

a. A self-inflicted problem?

b. John Stott: Preaching as Bridge between two worlds.

c. The bridge¹



c. Timeless principles?



¹ J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays, *Grasping God's Word*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.p24

'Bridging Contexts

THIS SECTION BUILDS A BRIDGE between the world of the Bible and the world of today, between the original context and the contemporary context, by focusing on both the timely and timeless aspects of the text.

God's Word is *timely*. The authors of Scripture spoke to specific situations, problems, and questions. The author of Joshua encouraged the faith of his original readers by narrating the destruction of Jericho, a seemingly impregnable city, at the hands of an angry warrior God (Josh. 6). Paul warned the Galatians about the consequences of circumcision and the dangers of trying to be justified by law (Gal. 5:25). The author of Hebrews tried to convince his readers that Christ is superior to Moses, the Aaronic priests, and the Old Testament sacrifices. John urged his readers to "test the spirits" of those who taught a form of incipient Gnosticism (1 John 4:1-6). In each of these cases, the timely nature of Scripture enables us to hear God's Word in situations that were concrete rather than abstract.

Yet the timely nature of Scripture also creates problems. Our situations, difficulties, and questions are not always directly related to those faced by the people in the Bible. Therefore, God's word to them does not always seem relevant to us. For example, when was the last time someone urged you to be circumcised, claiming that it was a necessary part of justification? ...

Fortunately, Scripture is not only timely but *timeless*. Just as God spoke to the original audience, so he still speaks to us through the pages of Scripture. Because we share a common humanity with the people of the Bible, we discover a *universal dimension* in the problems they faced and the solutions God gave them. The timeless nature of Scripture enables it to speak with power in every time and in every culture.²

d. Timeless and timely.

e. The law

² Series introduction to NIV Application Commentary, p8

f. Who decides?

g. A self-inflicted wound

2. God has had us in mind all the time

Living downstairs

The God of the Gap

Responsible interpretation

For us

Us

3: Changing the Heart

- a. Box 1: what you're doing wrong**

- b. Box 5: The right things to be doing**

- c. A box of snakes!**

- d. Box 2: Into the heart**

- e. Box 3: The gospel changes the heart**

- f. Box 4: The new heart**

- g. Box 5 again: The new life**

4. Biblical Patterns

- a. The case against: Christ the pattern**

- b. The case for: biblical patterns**

God

The Son of God

Cain

Sodom and Gomorrah

Abraham

Israel in the desert

Elijah

Job

The witnesses of Hebrews 11

Paul

Other senior Christians

c. Set an example

d. Patterns

e. Being a pattern

5: Biblical models

Lecture 3

Application to Christians – a theology of Discipleship

"And prove their repentance by their deeds"

1. We all need the gospel, all the time
 - a. What happens if we supplement the gospel
 - b. The Quest for the Magic Bullet
 - c. Who am I?
 - d. The sign in the pulpit
 - e. The place of works in the life of the believer
 - f. Indicative and Imperative?
 - g. The range of response
 - h. The grace that teaches

Sin

The cross

The resurrection

The future

i. Commands

j. Christians sin because they forget to remember

k. Christians sin because they deliberately forget

2. Change in four dimensions

a. The heart without gospel

AA's Twelve Steps:

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity
3. Made a decision to turn a will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all those defects of character
7. Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

b. The soul without the gospel

c. The mind without the gospel

d. The strength without the gospel

e. What Satan loves and hates

f. Kinds of application

g. Sermons that explode on Monday

- **Why?**
- **What?**
- **So what?**
- **Now what?**

Lecture 4

Application to non-Christians – a theology of Evangelism

“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

1: Three questions

a. “What shall we do?”

b. Triangles and squares

c. Apologetics

Question 1

Questions

Question 2

Questions

Question 3

Cut to the heart

The preacher cut to the heart

Questions

2. Story

a. How to lose an audience

b. The seven basic plots

- **Overcoming the Monster**
- **Rags to Riches**
- **The Quest**
- **Voyage and Return**
- **Tragedy**
- **Comedy**
- **Rebirth**

c. LOTR 2

e. An open door

3. Sin

a. The rejection of Christ as Prophet

b. The rejection of Christ as Priest

c. The rejection of Christ as King

f. Repentance

Lecture 5

Application to church – a theology of the Body

“I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.”

1. Speaking to the church

a. Preaching to ourselves

b. Addressing them as individuals

c. Addressing them as related individuals

d. Addressing them as a body

2. Preaching as leadership

a. Is there a ‘gift of leadership’? Romans 12:1-8

b. Do pastors have the ‘gift of leadership’? 1 Timothy 3:1-7

c. The ‘double gifting’ of the pastor

**Audio and video recordings of Chris Green's lecture series
will be available online, free of charge.**

Link for Livestream:

<https://new.livestream.com/moorecollege>

Link for audio & video following each lecture:

<http://myrrh.library.moore.edu.au/handle/10248/4698>



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