

- I. The Gospel Advances: “I Will Build My Church” (5:12-16)
  - A. Bold Proclamation Accompanied by Signs and Wonders (4:29-30)
  - B. Three Responses to the Gospel (2 Cor 2:15-16)
    1. Respect and Fear (5:13)
    2. Multitudes Believed (5:14-15)
    3. Jealousy and Opposition (5:17-40)
- II. The Gospel Opposed: “And the Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against It” (5:17-40)
  - A. Proclaim The Word of Life (5:17-26; John 1:4; 6:35, 67-69; 10:10-11; 14:6; 1 John 1:1-2)
  - B. Answering Charges by Proclaiming Christ (5:27-32; Luke 21:12-13; Matt 27:24-25; Luke 12:4-12; Deu 21:22-23; Gal 3:13-14)
  - C. Delivered through Persecution (5:33-39; 22:3)
- III. Gospel Rejoicing (5:41-42; 1 Peter 4:12-13; Matt 5:10-12)

“Therefore we conquer in dying; we go forth victorious at the very time we are subdued. . . . Kill us, torture us, condemn us, grind us to dust. . . . The more often we are mown down by you, the more we grow in numbers; the blood of Christians is the seed of the church. ” —Tertullian, *Apology*, Chapter 50

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What was the source of the apostles’ bold proclamation of the gospel?
2. Why is the gospel called the “words of this Life” (Acts 5; cf. Phil 2:16) / “words of eternal life (John 6:67)?
3. Do you sometimes hesitate or neglect to speak about Christ due to a fear of opposition? How can you overcome those fears?
4. What responses have you seen when you’ve shared the gospel with others?