



Sermon Notes: Prospering in The Word

Background:

Theme: Pursue the kind of prosperity that comes only through obedience to the Word of God.

Gospel Applications:

1. Root your life in faithful obedience to the Word of God, and let Him bless you when and how He wants.
2. Trust God to turn your worst trials and failures into blessings.
3. Trust God to bless others through your obedience.
4. Recognize how you prosper in the Gospel.
 - The very heart of our salvation is a gracious exchange whereby Jesus was penalized and punished for our sin so that we could prosper because of his obedience.



Gospel Applications: Prospering in The Word

Discuss.

1. Leading into Ezra 5, how had the people responded to the discouragement they faced? Where do you see yourself reacting the same way to trials and discouragement in your life?
2. How do you think you'd feel if you were in the Jews' situation: You're trying to obey God and government officials come to you and demand to know, "Who said you could do this and what are your names"?
3. How do you tend to think of God's blessing or prospering someone? What do you naturally think when that form of blessing doesn't happen?
4. What are some other ways God blesses or prospers people? Why is it important to keep all these means of blessing in mind – especially when you or someone you know is struggling through trials or discouragement?
5. What are some other examples in Scripture of when God used a trial or opposition to accomplish a greater good than would've happened without the trial in the first place? How have you seen God do this for you?
6. How might God be prospering your inner person even when your external circumstances are hard? How have you seen God do this for you?
7. What is your biggest objection or obstacle to obedience when you're discouraged by trials? What does the Word of God say will happen if you push past those objections in obedient faith?
8. What one thing do you need to do with this message this week?

Pray.

1. Confess where you're using trials and discouragement to excuse disobedience. Acknowledge how this takes you further off course.
2. Ask God for the faith to wait on him, offering the sacrifice of humble obedience. Ask Him to show you His worthiness to receive this from you.