

Citizens.

## Why Citizens?

The gospel of Jesus Christ changes everything. Yet, we are not always sure what that means for everyday life. There is a point many believers reach in their walk where they are not sure how to live out Jesus' lordship over their lives. Often this comes in the realm of work and the increasing complexities to live faithfully in all of life. When we come to this point in life, we need to delve deeper into the reality of Jesus Christ and grow a vision of how the good news alters everything we are and do. Citizens offers a place to take this journey with the gospel.

## What is Citizens?

Citizens is a year-long intensive which seeks to enable believers to discern how to live out their heavenly citizenship in their workplace. The vision of citizens is to awaken Christian believers to their place in God's world and how God wants them to live in light of the coming kingdom.

## What you need to know

- Materials: A 20 book theological and devotional library for the whole year.
- Commitment: Weekly commitment of a two-hour meeting and four hours reading time. Three weekends throughout the year.
- Cost: \$950 for hardback books or \$800 for kindle ebooks. The price includes all costs for three weekends and 20 books.

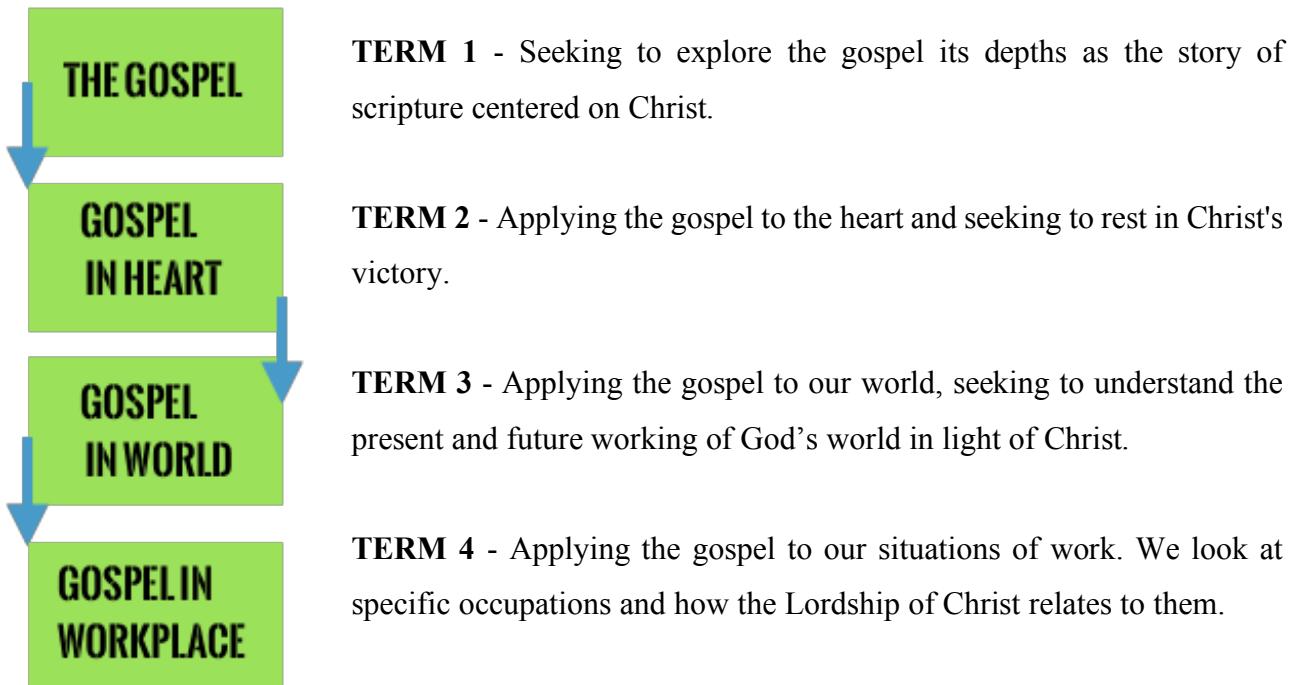
## The Philosophy of Citizens – How Transformation Happens

- Only possible through the gospel of Jesus Christ. So we study him and what he has done. We seek the power to change from his death and resurrection.
- Occurs in community with others. So we need to be vulnerable and commit to listening and doing life together.
- Begins with the heart. We cannot do good work without a new heart. Our first step is to let the gospel transform our hearts.
- Is a journey. We need a whole year of seeking, praying, thinking, reflecting and longing to be molded more deeply into the image of Jesus Christ.
- Requires the God's voice in scripture. Citizens takes the unfolding revelation of scripture as God's voice. Through living in the story of scripture, we find our identity and task as part of God's plans.

## Citizens on a Page

Weekly Meetings: Citizens meets for two hours weekly for 28 weeks in a year. One hour is spent sharing and praying about what is happening at work and life. One hour is spent considering the reading of the week.

Citizens takes a journey with the gospel:



Citizens involves three retreats:

**RETREAT 1** (Feb) - *Orientation to the Course.* Seek to share our stories and get to know each other and what God might do in the year.

**RETREAT 2** (July) - *Heart Transformation.* We seek to understand the patterns of our hearts that underlie the way we go about work and life and how the gospel

**RETREAT 3** (Nov) – *Situational Clarity.* We consider what God is doing in specific instances in our workplaces and reflect on our lives as a whole and how to live faithfully to Christ.

Citizens involves two projects:

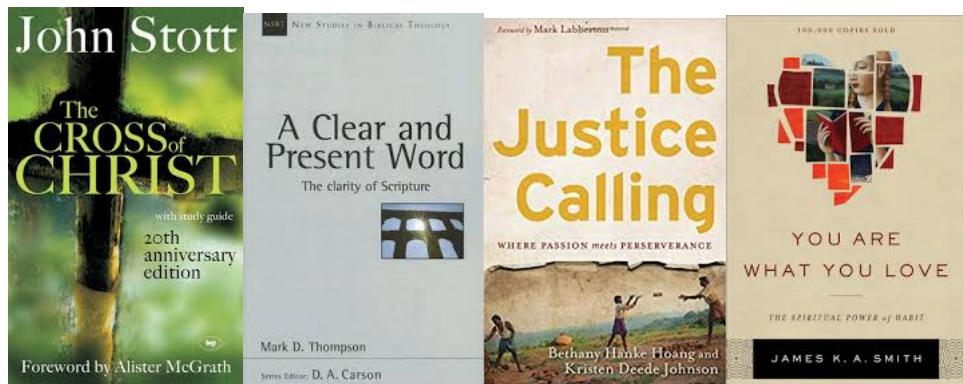
**PROJECT 1** - ‘Clothed with Christ’ – a look at our hearts for retreat #2.

**PROJECT 2** -‘Whatever is good’ – a look at a specific work issue for retreat #3.

## The Journey at a Glance.

### Term 1 – The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the first term of Citizens we consider the gospel. We trace its full depth and beauty as the captivating story of Jesus Christ. God's word tells the story of Jesus Christ and lays claim to our whole view of reality and ourselves.

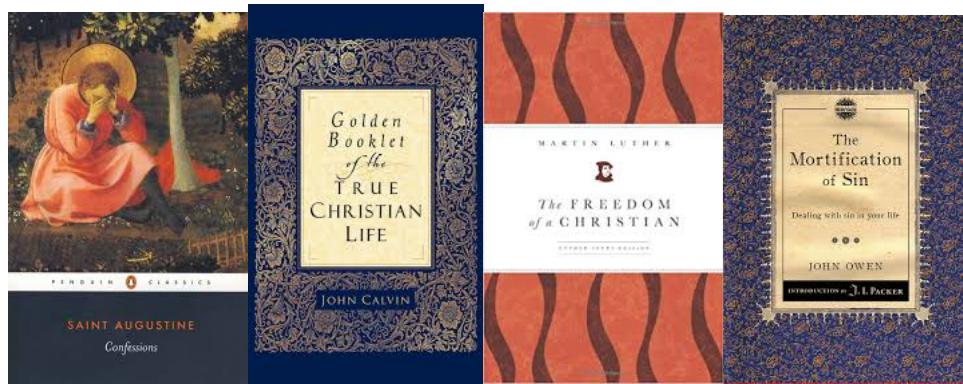


*'There is a sense in which the whole of Christian theology... is an exposition of the gospel and its implications. Two thousand years have not exhausted the wonder of it.'*

- Mark Thompson, *A Clear and Present Word*, p.56.

### Term 2 – Gospel in the Heart.

In the second term of citizens we turn all the realities of the gospel we have learned and seek by faith to let the gospel reorder and change our hearts, kill sin and lead to a new life of love. We cannot do good work before the gospel reshapes us.

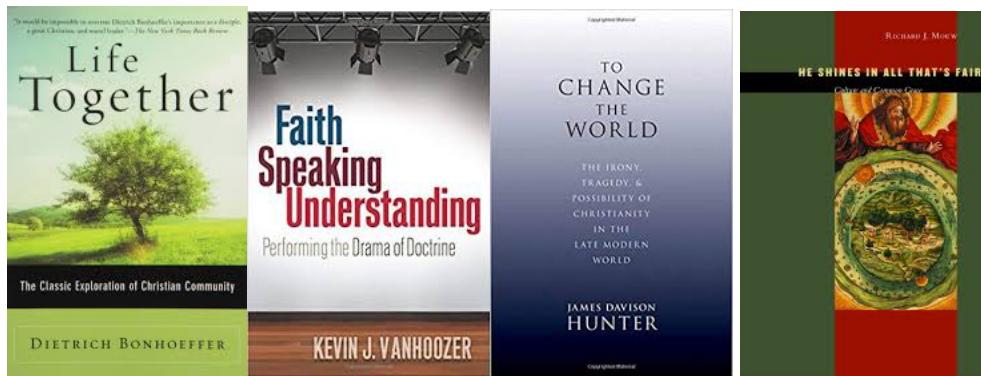


*'For wherever the soul of man may turn, unless it turns to you, it clasps sorrow to itself. Even thought it clings to things of beauty... beauty would not exist at all unless they came from you.'*

- Saint Augustine, *Confessions*, p.80.

## Term 3 – Gospel in the World

In the third term of citizens after considering what the gospel says about our hearts, we let it speak to the world of our work. Essential for this is comprehending: the nature of common grace, God's future, creation and the way culture is shaped and changed.

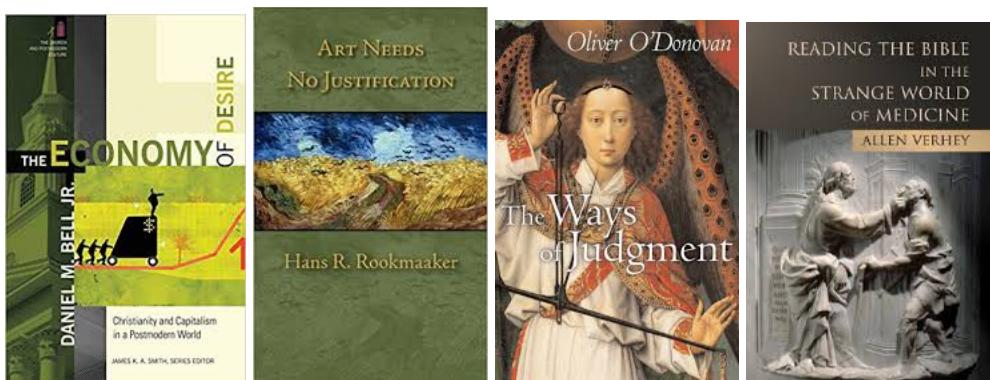


*'The church is to go out into the world to enact parables of God's kingdom, loving the world with an extraordinary outpouring of its own life as Christ poured out his life for the church.'*

- Kevin Vanhoozer, *Faith Speaking Understanding*, p.233.

## Term 4 – Gospel in the workplace.

*In the fourth term of citizens we consider some different areas of work and how we can bring to bear the theological resources upon each of the areas that God has placed us in. How do scripture and the gospel re-shape our vision for different domains of God's world?*



*'The early church was not simply to be conformed to the strange world of sickness and healing it entered but to be transformed -- and transforming -- by the renewing of its communal mind.'*

-Allen Verhey, *Reading the Bible in the Strange World of Medicine*, p.2.



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