Application questions

1) Are we ultimately concerned about God’s glory?

2) To what extent are our lives and decisions driven by the one overarching concern of how we can further the ministry of the gospel?

3) Do we see Paul’s letter’s as a great resource for evaluating ways in which the centrality of the gospel might be displaced in our own lives?

Core Seminars—New Testament
Class 9: Introduction to Paul: The Truths of the Kingdom

Who is Paul?

1) Conversion: From Persecutor to Preacher
   a. Jewish Heritage - Philippians 3:4-6
      i. Of the tribe of Benjamin
      ii. Hebrew of Hebrews
      iii. As to the law a Pharisee
      iv. As for zeal, persecuting the church

   FF Bruce ‘If Stephen argued, “The new has come; therefore the old must go”, Paul [sic] for his part argued, “The old must stay; therefore the new must go”. Hence the uncompromising rigour with which he threw himself into the work of repression.’¹

   b. Roman Citizen

   Acts 22:25-29

   Acts 25:10-12

   c. Conversion

¹ FF Bruce. *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, 70
2) Apostleship

   a. Independent calling, same gospel.
      • Galatians 1

   b. Unique ministry to Gentiles
      i. Spearheaded the Gentile mission

      ii. Grasped the multinational implications of the gospel

      • Galatians 2:11-16

   Paul the Missionary

   c. Preaching
      i. Centrality of the cross

      • 1 Corinthians 1:22-24

      • 1 Cor 9:20-23

      • 1 Cor 9: 11-18

         ii. Glory of God

      • Romans 1:5

      • Ephesians 1:13-14

   d. Writing: the missionary writer

      • 1 Thess 3:7-10