Chris Gallo

**Theology and Practice – Book Assignment**

*Instruments in The Redeemer’s Hand*, Paul Tripp

1. **Write out five things you learned from the book that were most helpful to you. Write two or three sentences to unpack each point.**
   1. ***Instruments***: Rather than acting “immediately”, God seems to like using things he has created as mediums of his grace. Not unlike the physical elements of the sacraments, God uses his own people as instruments and vehicles of his grace in the lives of other believers and unbelievers. Just like when we work with our own tools, when we are used as instruments of grace to others, it is God who does the work and accomplishes the change. Furthermore, this concept provides a powerful complement to the traditional “ministry of the pulpit” by providing a constant, distributed ministry of the Word as individuals are used by God to “counsel the word” with others.
   2. ***“God’s Story”, not an encyclopedia***: Rather than use scripture as a collection of principles to be applied topically, we should be communicating the full breadth and depth of God’s story of creation, the fall (including our own sin), redemption, and consummation; God’s sovereignty, grace, and glory. This will allow us to more fully understand and convey to those we are counseling or discipling our identity in Christ, our position before God and what he intends as our purpose.
   3. **Everybody ministers and everybody needs ministry**. Heb. 3: 12 – 13. Personal ministry, one unto another, should be a central part of the daily culture within the church. We are all still sinful and still blind, particularly to our own sin. Within the context of real community acting with honesty and humility on both sides of the relationship, we can help each other to see truth more clearly. (N.B. This concept, I think, is true and currently lacking in the church, but it rests on a knife-edge: a glorious community of believers on the one side and a collection of busybodies on the other.)
   4. **The Heart**: (Chapter 4)
   5. We are ambassadors. II Corinthians 5: 14 – 6:2. P101-107 (Love, Know, Speak, Do) (Cf. P121-122+; P132-133, incarnating Christ, be ready always)
   6. Speaking Truth in Love. Lev. 19:15 – 18 Sharing in guilt. This provides an alternative to either being offensive or silent. Chapter 11-
2. **Now, personalize this even more. Write a paragraph explaining how this book has changed your perspective on God, Scripture, the power of the gospel, and your life.**

The concept of being ambassadors. Every relationship, every encounter or interaction. We incarnate Christ.

1. **What are the counseling implications of this book for you? How will you think differently about ministry? What are some specific things you want to do to counsel or disciple more effectively?**

Relationship. Big picture of the story of redemption. Love, Know, Speak, Do. I have no counseling or formal discipling experience, so this will be setting my foundation. Will change the way I interact with my children, coworkers, etc.

1. **What questions do you have as a result of reading this book? What further areas of study would you like to pursue?**

The book is very generic regarding people: male/female, cultures, personality types, people on “the spectrum.” I’m interested in a specifically male-oriented approach. How is Love, Know, Speak, Do implemented for western man, specifically?

1. **Think of one person you know who is struggling. What is one truth from this book they need to understand? How could you wisely communicate it to them?**

Scott, Rodney, Chuck, Josh, Alec (Are any of my children struggling?)

1. **Write a paragraph book review commending this book to others.**

jkfldjkflsdajkldsfajklfad

1. **Write a prayer thanking God for what you learned and asking him for specific graces for you and someone you minister to.**

jfkldjfkdlajkfldjaklfd