

## The Gospel

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The Gospel. The Gospel. The Gospel. We sure say a lot about the Gospel. We use this word so much that we may have lost its meaning. However, we must never underestimate the significant role of the Gospel. The Gospel is to be central to our life. So, let's take a look at some important aspects of the Gospel.

**1. The Gospel comes from God.** The Gospel represents an important message from God. Paul began his letter to the Romans by writing, "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God" (Rom. 1:1). There is good news regarding our salvation that He seeks to share with us. Without God communicating with us, we would be clueless about our salvation. If God has communicated with us through the Gospel message, we had better pay attention.

**2. The Gospel came into the world through Jesus.** The details of the Gospel concern historic events surrounding Jesus. Back in Paul's letter to the Romans, he wrote how the Gospel of God was "promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 1:1-4).

The earliest recorded writing identifying the factual history of the Gospel is found in 1 Corinthians chapter fifteen. Paul wrote, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve" (1 Cor. 15:3-5).

God's good news of our salvation was made possible by Jesus. His arrival in the world was not random but promised in the Old Testament. Salvation from eternal death was provided through His sacrificial death. By His cross, sin was destroyed and the penalty for our sin was satisfied. Then, God defeated the evil power of death by raising Jesus to new life. In His resurrected form, Jesus appeared before many people. These witnesses testified of what they saw.

**3. The Gospel comes into our life by obedience.** The Gospel is news, not advice. Advice can be taken or ignored. News is about events that have reshaped the world. News changes the world. News changes how we live in the world. News cannot be ignored, escaped, or changed.

The Gospel ushered in a new reality. The Gospel is how God made His Son, Jesus, king of heaven and earth. God destroyed sin and defeated death. God showed in the present what He plans to accomplish in the future. These events, therefore, demand a submissive response. Regarding the saints in Corinth, Paul wrote that the person who preaches this news is not important. What is important is that listeners believe (1 Cor. 15:11).

Believing the Gospel means obeying the Gospel. When we obey the Gospel we are surrendering our lives to God. We are giving God our hearts, minds, and souls. We commit to a new way of living.

**4. The Gospel transforms.** Some change in the world is fast and mechanical. My boys can change a pile of Legos into a castle in a couple of hours. Other change is gradual and organic. I can plant a tree in my yard and it will grow gradually and organically. The Gospel transforms us gradually and organically.

Transformation happens when we daily engage the Bible with our hearts. Paul wrote about daily renewal in the life of Christians (2 Cor. 4:16). We learn about how the Gospel is to be implemented into our lives. Transformation requires time and attention. With sorrow for sin and a desire to be like Jesus, we will gradually and naturally implement the Gospel to our lives.

For example, the Gospel shows the self-giving love of Jesus. Therefore, Gospel transformation will involve becoming incrementally selfless. Evidence of increasing selflessness may be noticed in how a husband more lovingly serves his wife. His sacrifice and service are motivated by love for what Jesus did for him at the cross. Over time and implementation of the Gospel, the husband's marriage is transformed. The marriage itself becomes a symbol of the Gospel's renewal.

**5. The Gospel is to be shared.** The witnesses of the resurrected Lord could not help but testify of what they saw. Likewise, Christians cannot help but share what the Gospel has done for them. The Gospel is a net positive. The Gospel brings meaning to life and hope for the future. Yet, we often struggle to share the Gospel with others. The Gospel eliminates barriers we create that prevent us from sharing its message.

If we are hindered by fear, the Gospel removes fear. Our sense of worth is not determined by the opinions of others, but by the Savior who died for us. If we are struggling with indifference, the Gospel creates a sense of urgency. We cannot be true friends without sharing the message that can save them from eternal death.

If we have been hindered by pride, the Gospel removes pride. The Gospel proves that we are not superior to anyone. We all need the Gospel because we are all sinners. Instead of talking down to people, we will meet them where they are and help them. If we are being hindered by pessimism, the Gospel removes pessimism. The Gospel is God's power to save; therefore, there isn't anything too big for the Gospel to conquer.

### **Conclusion**

The message of the Gospel is unlike anything the world has ever known. At its core, the Gospel is about God's love for people. The gods that humans have created are not loving. They are self-destructive, estranged, and transactional. The world's religions offer a path to understanding through meritorious works; whereas, the Gospel is offered by God's grace. The grace of the Gospel can empower us to obedience, transformation, and proclamation.