

Why the Gospel is Good News

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We love to hear good news. In a world filled with a twenty-four-hour bad news cycle, good news is always welcomed. Regarding God's good news, Isaiah wrote, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns"(Isa. 52:7).

Israel had suffered tremendously for their idolatry. The glory of God left the Temple and the people were taken into captivity. Isaiah looked forward to a time when God's people would be redeemed from oppression. The people would be saved. God would reign.

This prophecy of Isaiah was accomplished through God's Son, Jesus. We know the Gospel is good news, but why? What does this good news mean in our world and in our lives?

The Gospel...

1). Saves us from God's wrath. In the epistle of Romans, Paul states that the wrath of God will be poured out on unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18). However, as our representative substitute, Jesus took the wrath of God. Paul wrote, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith" (Rom. 3:23-25).

When we live in sin, we are children of wrath. Sin puts us on a perilous course towards God's wrath; yet, by faith in the cross of Jesus, we can receive mercy (Eph. 2:4-5). The second verse of the song, "In Christ Alone," captures the significance of the Gospel saving us from God's wrath:

*In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live*

2). Heals the conscience. When the writers of the Bible used the term "conscience," they were referring to all that we are as humans. Faith in the Gospel heals, renews, and transforms

the conscience. The blood of Jesus enables us to come into the presence of God. We can worship and serve Him as fully as humanly possible.

The author of Hebrews wrote, “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb. 10:19-22).

The Gospel heals hearts, minds, and souls troubled by sin. There is no substitute for the Gospel to heal the conscience. No person or teaching has this power. Only Christ. Only the Gospel.

3). Ignites life changes. The Gospel is about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, the Gospel is about our death and resurrection. We are to die to sin and rise to a new life in Jesus. The Gospel shows us about new values and behaviors we are to adopt.

Change is hard. We are typically resistant to change in any form. Yet, the Gospel gives us the power to change. The apostle Peter wrote, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence” (2 Pet. 1:3). God has called us to glory and excellence through the Gospel.

4). Gives hope. The Gospel offers real hope to a fallen world. The hope of the Gospel rises from the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus shows us what Jesus always said: with God, all things are possible (Matt. 19:26). The Gospel gives us the hope of freedom when we are enslaved to sin. The hope of freedom plants the seeds of faith.

Most significantly, the Gospel gives us the hope of life after death. Nothing in life is as feared as death. Death truly is the last frontier. Nothing has the kind of power that death has over us. Yet, Paul taunts death. Why? Was Paul naïve or arrogant? No. Paul taunted death because Jesus was raised.

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:54-57).

Conclusion

The Gospel is good news; however, not everyone thinks so. A few verses after Isaiah's prophecy announces God's good news for the world, Isaiah wrote, "Who has believed what he has heard from us?" (Isa. 53:1). For all the good God seeks to pour into our lives through His Son, God's intentions are wasted if we do not believe the Gospel.