

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? Paul begins his letter to the Romans by stating, “I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Rom. 1:16). As people created and owned by God, He demands our worship. We should give him the honor and glory that is due to him. We should live, speak, act, and think in a way that recognizes and acknowledges his authority over us. Because we are **MADE** by him, **OWNED** by him, **DEPENDENT** on him, we are therefore **ACCOUNTABLE** to him. Our problem is that we have rebelled against him. We have all in some form or fashion, “exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, animals, and creeping things” (Rom. 1:23).

Understanding this paves the way for the gospel or the good news. God’s solution to humanity’s sin is the sacrificial death and resurrection of his son, Jesus. The righteousness God shows has been demonstrated and given through a man and not from a list of rules and regulations (Romans 3:21). We are right before God because we are justified through Christ. For Romans 3:24 says that we have been, “justified by his grace as a **GIFT**, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” It’s through his sinless life, sacrificial death and shedding of his blood, burial, and bodily resurrection that we are saved from the condemnation our sins deserve (1 Cor. 15).

This saving, only takes place for those who believe through **FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST**. By trusting him and no other our faith is “counted as righteousness” according to the Scriptures (Rom. 4:5). Faith consists of actual belief and active continual repentance. These are two sides to the same coin and both are necessary for a saving faith. Jesus’ message to his listeners was, “Repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). If faith is turning to Jesus and relying on him for salvation, repentance is turning away from sin, **HATING IT**, and resolving by God’s strength to forsake it as we turn to him in faith.

An implicit idea within the gospel is that it is just our entry ticket into the Kingdom, but it’s the Law that keeps us in line.¹ We would affirm that it is the gospel that changes lives in the beginning and it’s in fact the gospel that continues to change our lives lived in holiness unto God. **GRACE** is the power in which we stand saved and are being saved (1 Cor. 15:1-2). While Paul calls us to work out our own salvation, the spiritual reality we must recognize is that it is God who is in us doing the work (Phil. 2:12-13). We do participate in our own sanctification, but the Scriptures are clear that our good works are the results of God’s good work in us.

IN SUMMARY, WE WOULD DESCRIBE THE GOSPEL AS FOLLOWS:

The Gospel...the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that all who have faith in Him will be reconciled to God forever.

¹Jared Wilson, *Gospel Wakefulness* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2011), 132.