

Appendix M — The Gospel of Jesus Christ

SESSION ONE: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

1. Jesus' original intention was that *every* Christian participate in the Great Commission. This has been the most effective strategy for advancing God's Kingdom throughout history.

"The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession, but men and women who carried on their livelihood in some purely secular manner and spoke of their faith to those they met in this natural fashion." (Kenneth Latourette)

2. The Apostle Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)
 - ...it is the only thing that will tell you what is really wrong with you.
 - ...it is the only thing that will give you real answers to fix the problem.
 - ...it is the only thing that will give you the power to do what is right.

What is the Gospel?

1. The word "gospel" means "good news." It is a summary word that represents the complete work Jesus did to redeem us.
2. The gospel is a _____.
 - The gospel is primarily news about what Jesus has done, not advice about how to live. There is a difference between Good News Salvation and Good Advice Salvation.
3. The gospel is a _____.
 - The gospel is primarily a status you receive now, not a reward you receive later.
4. The gospel requires us to know two things:
 - The magnitude of our _____.
 - The greatness of His _____.

The Gospel in Three Parts

“The Gospel is the story about Christ, that he is the Son of God and became man for us, that he died and was raised, that he has been established as a Lord over all things.” (Martin Luther)

1. The Manger. God became a man and lived a sinless life.
 - The good news of the gospel is that Jesus lived a life of perfect obedience. He lived the life that I should have lived.
2. The Cross. Jesus took upon Himself the sin of all mankind.
 - The good news of the gospel is that Jesus offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice as my substitute. He died the death that I should have died.
3. The Throne. Jesus was raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of the Father.
 - The good news of the gospel is that Jesus rose from the dead and defeated sin, death, and the devil. His victory is now my victory.

In Conclusion: The gospel is the saving event of Jesus Christ which is rooted in the Scriptures concerning His life, death, and resurrection. It is the proclamation concerning this historic, perfect, and finished event of what God in Christ did for sinners for which they could not do for themselves.

SESSION TWO: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL MESSAGE?

Component #1: God

1. Everyone we speak with will have a _____ view of God to some degree.

“Some people think of God as the impersonal soul of the universe or as the sum total of everything that is. Others like to believe He is a kindly old grandfather in the sky, always available to grant requests. Still others see God as a absentee landlord who created the world and then went to Acapulco. There is no universally agreed upon definition of ‘God,’ and ideas about him vary from person to person.” J.I. Packer

2. The two primary aspects of God’s _____ especially relevant in evangelism are His authority and His love.

- God is king.

God is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 1 Timothy 6:15

There is only one God and we are all accountable to Him

- God is love.

‘This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10

There is only one God and He created us us to have a relationship with Him through His Son Jesus.

Component #2: Sin

1. Sin is any failure to _____ to the moral law in act, attitude, or nature.

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 1 John 3:4

Sin manifests in both outward acts against the moral law (lying, stealing, etc.), and inward attitudes against the moral law (jealousy, coveting, etc.). But it also manifests in our nature that is opposed to the moral law.

*“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”
Ephesians 2:3*

- There are two main expressions of sin: rebellion and religion.
2. The rebellious sinner seeks to save himself by _____ God's law and creating his own rules. (Romans 1:25)
 - He rejects God's moral standards and establishes his own.
 - He refuses to look to God to give him meaning and purpose in life, and instead looks to something in the creation to provide it.
 3. The religious sinner seeks to save himself by _____ God's law and following it in his own strength. (Romans 2:21-23)
 - He tries to keep the letter of the law but ends up violating its spirit.
 - He judges others while vindicating himself.
 4. God's Law _____ the Gospel because conviction of the truth precedes faith and repentance. (Romans 7:7)

The Ten Commandments are the foundation of the moral law. They have both an outer dimension and an inner dimension. To the rebellious, we emphasize the outer; to the religious we emphasize the inner.

SESSION THREE: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL MESSAGE?

Component #3: Jesus

1. Jesus became a man through the Virgin Birth and lived a _____ life.
2. Jesus took our _____ on the cross and paid the price for our sins.

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”
1 Peter 3:18*

Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died as our substitute so that God can receive us not on our record or for our sake, but on Jesus’ record and for His sake.

Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30

“Tell rebellious men that God is reconciled, justice is satisfied, sin has been atoned for, the judgment of the guilty may be revoked, the condemnation of the sinner cancelled, the curse of the Law blotted out, the gates of hell closed, the portals of heaven opened wide, the power of sin subdued, the guilty conscience healed, the broken heart comforted, and the sorrow and misery of the Fall undone.”

A.B. Simpson

Component #4: Salvation

1. We enter God’s Kingdom through repentance and _____.

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20:21

2. Repentance is _____ to Jesus as Lord and Savior. It has three primary components.

• _____.

• _____.

• _____.

We turn away from those things that are contrary to the Bible, seek reconciliation with those we have offended, and make restitution wherever possible.

3. Faith is trusting in Jesus to save us from the penalty and _____ of sin.

“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:3-7

- We trust Him because He is trustworthy.

“Even if we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.” II Timothy 2:13

4. When we _____ of our sins and believe what Jesus has done, we experience God’s mercy and grace.

Mercy is God’s pardon of our sins. Grace is God’s empowering presence. Mercy gives us security in our relationship with God because it is rooted in Him and not our performance. Grace enables us to obey God and fulfill His purpose for our life.

Conclusion

“Only the Gospel allows us to see God as He really is. The Gospel shows us a God far more holy than we can bear and yet far more gracious than we can conceive. Without the knowledge of how sinful we are, the payment of the cross seems trivial and does not electrify us or transform us. But without the knowledge of Christ’s completely satisfying death, the knowledge of sin would crush us. Take away either the knowledge of sin or the knowledge of grace and our lives are not changed.”

Tim Keller

*But when we see both of them we will experience the power of God for salvation.
Romans 1:16*