

What is the gospel?

Sermon 3: (The Gospel as the Theme of *ALL* Scripture -Romans 8:18-25)

Who loves a good story? A good book? A great movie? Listening to a riveting tale? The more epic the better! *Wizard of Oz*; *Starwars*; *Les Miserables*; *Braveheart*; *Lord of the Rings*; DC Comics or Marvel, lit. any Western =Same story (Good vs. Evil) =through suffering, good eventually wins!

The Theme of all Scripture: The glory of God in the redemption of man. **Good vs. Evil**

1. The gospel means that Christ **wins**; GOOD wins! divine love triumphs; the universe is forever changed; we r transformed; that NOTHING IS THE SAME!!! The gospel is the declaration that **Good conquers evil forever**, that Jesus **is** the risen Savior who gave Himself that we might **live** and find **hope, rest, & JOY** in HIM!!!

-Christ wins!!!! This is the message of the Book of Revelation!! The exalted, victorious Christ/lamb

2. The Gospel means that Jesus is the **central** character of **ALL** Scripture. All the Bible revolves around Jesus and His sinless life, healing ministry, sacrificial & vicarious death, miraculous resurrection, heavenly ascension, imminent return, and eternal restoration of all things

Jesus is the central character of ALL Scripture. -John 5:39 “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me”

-Luke 24:27 “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was written in all the Scriptures about Himself.”

-Luke 24:44 “Jesus said to them, “These are the words I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”

Jesus is the central character of ALL Scripture. In the O.T. the suffering of the Israelites in their disobedience to the Lord; their incapacity to keep the Law the required sacrificial system for temporary atonement ALL point to the needed and promised Messiah; in the NT, the Messiah is named – Jesus from Nazareth and He is declared both Messiah, Lord and God –He lives the perfect life; sinless; keep the LAW of God perfectly; ministers, teaches, disciples, heals, does miracles, raises the dead; & prophesies; He is transfigured and fulfills all the Messianic prophecies of Scripture; Jesus is rightly worshiped, then betrayed, tortured, crucified, killed, buried, and then raised on the 3rd day. The Apostles are eyewitnesses and spend the rest of their lives on mission to write (Scripture) and testify to the world that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God – the only way to heaven!!

3. The Gospel is the meta-narrative of **Scripture** (the ultimate story within His story/BIBLE)

-Rom. 1:1 “Paul, set apart for the gospel of God, the gospel God promised beforehand through His prophets in Holy Scripture”

-1 Peter 1:10-12 “As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Messiah/Christ within them was indicating (pointing to) as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you (N.T. =then and now), in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.” -The Gospel is the good news that God determined before creation to save, rescue, and redeem mankind from the curse of sin and death; **God wins & In Him, we win!!!**

****What is the gospel? “The Gospel is the *good news* that a loving **God** sent His sinless Son to rescue rebellious **mankind** from their own sin and death, [through **Jesus**’ own substitutionary death & resurrection], forever saving & transforming all who **trust** in Jesus *by faith*.”**

The Gospel as the meta narrative of Scripture: Overarching theme of Bible: What does that mean?

- A.** Seeing Christ in all Scripture (the lens to how we read, understand, interpret, apply Bible) = **Christo-centric hermeneutic** ...the narrative of Scripture revolves Messiah (OT)/Jesus (NT) Jesus is the Beginning and end of all Scripture: He is the *Telos* of all Scripture/the fulfillment of Scripture = **all roads in the Bible lead to Christ**. (Jesus then is the point of the very storyline of our lives too)
- B.** Seeing the gospel **hope** in all Scripture (in OT *foreshadowing* [the **Ark**; Levitical **sacrificial system**; the **Passover**]; **typology** [Adam; Moses; Bronze Serpent]; **Covenantalism** [leading all to the New Covenant]; **Messianic promises** and **prophecies**) = **all point to Jesus/salv./hope**
- C.** Seeing that the gospel **message** truly matters to **God** (=His story of redemption; showcases His love; His eternal purpose; His glory; the unexpected meeting of His justice and mercy -in the death of His own Son; the conquering of evil, of the devil, of sin & death forever! = The gospel message matters to a **lost** world; *their very salvation depends on it*; it is the foundation of our worship and Christ’s exaltation!

****The Gospel as the theme of all Scripture** =How to break it down, know it, and **share it**

- God Creation
- Man Fall
- Christ Redemption
- Response Restoration (=Accept/Reject)

GOD – Created the world. He loved the world He created. He created us for relationship/etern
MAN – Mankind, through Adam, chose to rebel & reject God’s Word, His presence -sinned again
CHRIST – God sent Jesus to the world; took on flesh/man -sinless/LAW -Died for sins of world
RESPONSE –in order to be saved, we believe-faith in Him/repent from sin/accept gift of salv./

Read Romans 8:18-25 God/Creation Man/Fall Christ/Redemption Response/Restoration

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be* compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the eagerly awaiting **creation** waits for the revealing of the sons *and daughters* of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it*, ²¹ in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its **slavery** to corruption [**FALL**] into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³ And not only *that*, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons *and daughters*, the **redemption** of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, through perseverance we wait eagerly *for it*. [**RESTORATION**]” =GLORIFICATION

1. God and Creation

Vs. 19: For the eagerly awaiting **creation** waits for the revealing of the sons *and daughters* of God. Creation (Eden) and the Restoration (Re-Edenification) of the world. **Creation awaits it!!!**
-God is the Creator and everything is *HIS* creation. The universe and all that is in it exists *bc of Him and FOR Him*. Thus, **WE are His creations**. We are NOT autonomous, independent,

self-authoritative or truly free creatures = we were created according to His design, for His purpose, and that means **the Creator owns us**; we have an owner! =We exist at His pleasure and will. We are accountable to our owner (all of us) and God in His mercy has revealed (self-revealed) how we are to live in this world to please Him (the Bible). Rom. 1:16-33.

*Who is this Creator? What do we know about Him? Self-revelation: Exodus 34:6-7 “*Then the Lord passed by in front of Moses and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in faithfulness and truth [trustworthiness] who keeps faithfulness for thousands, who forgives -wrongdoing, -the violation of His Law, and -sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, inflicting the punishment of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”*

[compassionate; gracious/grace-filled; patient; full of LOVE; Faithful; giving undeserving love to thousands; and FORGIVING). ... YET, God does not leave the guilty unpunished!!!!*****(**God is not like a celestial janitor, just sweeping dirt and sin under the rug for no one to see**) the guilty will be punished for rejecting His presence & breaking his LAW; no exceptions. **The guilty pay!**

2. Man and the FALL:

Vs. 20: For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it*, in hope ²¹that the creation itself also will be set free from its **slavery** to corruption [**FALL**] into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

In his sin and rebellion, man is not just guilty **of breaking up with a girl, dumping his equal, no...** more than simple betrayal or adultery man is guilty of breaking a covenant relationship with **God as Creator**... man's sin is that he is guilty of committing willful cosmic treason (rejecting his King, his Creator/owner, and the Sovereign's Word/LAW). This is willful rebellion against God and His holy Person! **The punishment of treason is death. We are all GUILTY!**

3. Christ: and Redemption

Vs. 23: And not only *that*, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons *and daughters*, the **redemption** of our body. For in hope we have been **saved**, -What is *Redemption/bought us back*

In God's love, mercy, and grace – He sent Jesus to the earth to become fully man; take on flesh; and was sinless/perfectly keeping the whole LAW & fulfilling it; Jesus then became the very sin of all mankind. Jesus took on the world's guilt. And because God is also a just God, He punished Jesus on behalf of all mankind. Jesus became our substitute in His vicarious death; Jesus purchased us back as His again (owner) -1 Cor. 6:19 “*and don't you know that you are not your own?*”²⁰ For you have been bought for a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

Jesus redeemed us!!

4. Response: and Restoration

Vs. 24: For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, through perseverance we wait eagerly *for it*. As believers, we wait with anticipation being glorified in His Presence. **Believer? Every fork in the road requires a decision**; a choice; this one is an eternal choice: **Heaven/Hell**

APPLICATION

2Cor. 13:5 “*Test yourselves, examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?*” -Are you truly born again? -Can you share this gospel w/ anyone?

WELL Community Groups Discussion Questions

1. Paul says present sufferings are “not worth comparing” with future glory. How can this perspective reshape how we endure trials today?
2. What does it mean that creation itself is eagerly waiting for God’s children to be revealed? How might this broaden our understanding of redemption? Restoration?
3. Where do you see evidence of creation’s “bondage to decay” in the world today? How does the hope of renewal give us confidence?
4. Paul describes both creation and believers as “groaning.” What does this shared groaning reveal about our connection to the world and God’s plan? Stewardship?
5. How does the Spirit serve as a “firstfruits” of what’s to come? What daily evidences of the Spirit give you assurance of future redemption? Read Eph. 1:14
6. Paul says “hope that is seen is no hope at all.” How do we cultivate patient endurance when we can’t yet see what God has promised?
7. What practical steps can we take as a community of believers to wait with patience and encouragement for the fulfillment of God’s promises?