

**Q:** *If someone were to ask you the question, "What is the Gospel?" How would you respond?*

### THE GOSPEL SAVES US

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The Gospel is absolutely essential to the salvation of our souls. Paul says it is "the power of God unto salvation...for in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith" (Romans 1:16-17).

#### In the Gospel, we see that:

- **God is the perfectly holy, righteous, and just Creator and lawgiver.** He established the heavens and the rules that govern our lives on earth (Psa. 119:160, Prov. 3:19). His rules are for the good and flourishing of creation.
- **We are not good or morally neutral.** We violate God's righteous rules from our youth. We don't just commit sins, sin dwells in us (Romans 6: Titus 3:3). We have earned the penalty of death for our sins.
- **Our only hope for salvation is Jesus.** It is only through the goodness and lovingkindness of God showing up for us that we have such hope. The Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, came in the flesh to save us. We are not saved because of *our* righteousness or good works. Rather, we are saved only because of God's mercy toward us in Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead for us (Titus 3:5, Romans 4:25).
- **By the Spirit, we respond in faith and repentance.** This kindness of God is meant to lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Our turning in faith and responding to the Gospel is the first evidence that we have been given new hearts through the Spirit (Titus 3:5-7). Our salvation is completely by grace, through faith (Eph. 2:8-9).

#### Small Group Discussion

**Q:** *Which aspect(s) of this Gospel message are you prone to forget or leave out when you're thinking about or sharing the Gospel?*

**Q:** *When you hear the Gospel, does it still excite you or bring deeper appreciation for the love of God that is shown through the work of Christ? Why or why not?*

**Q:** *Are you confident in your knowledge to share this Gospel message with your children, friends, family, or other people in your life? How can you grow in this confidence?*

### THE GOSPEL TRANSFORMS US

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**Gospel Gaps** - *Gaps between our the Gospel and our experience in daily life* - Timothy Lane and Paul Tripp

- **Formalism** emphasizes doing the right religious activities without an emphasis or focus on God.
- **Legalism** knows the seriousness of God's requirements but fails to see that we always fall short.
- **Mysticism** seeks an experience with God that is neither promised nor necessary for true faith.
- **Activism** fails to see our internal evil and focuses on fighting the evils around us.
- **Biblicism** emphasizes the study of Scripture but neglects a growing relationship with God.
- **Psychology-ism** treats Christianity like a band-aid to cure all mental and emotional struggles.
- **Social-ism** (not socialism) is an overreliance on others while neglecting an abiding relationship with Christ.

"Often there has been too much of a separation between the theology we say we believe and the world we struggle in every day." - **Timothy Lane and Paul Tripp, How People Change**

## The Gospel as the motivation and power for our spiritual transformation:

- "I appeal to you therefore *by the mercies of God*, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice..." (Rom. 12:1).
- "For by grace you have been saved by grace through faith...we are his workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus for good works*." (Eph. 2:8-10).
- "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the *Gospel of Christ*..." (Phil. 1:27).
- "...for you have died *and your life is hidden with Christ in God*...Put to death therefore what is earthy in you..." (Col. 3:1-5a).
- "For *the grace of God has appeared*, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions..." (Titus 2: 11-14).
- "...conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers...with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot*." (1 Peter 1:17-21).

### Small Group Discussion

**Q:** Which of these Gospel gaps have you struggled with in your walk with God?

**Q:** What are some ways we try to fill these Gospel gaps apart from the Gospel? How do these prove ineffective for bringing true heart change and obedience?

**Q:** What is one passage of Scripture you can use for help when you notice a Gospel gap in your life?

## THE GOSPEL KEEPS US

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### What does the Gospel promise about the security of our souls?

- Our **Good Shepherd** will never let the enemy snatch us away (John 10:7-18; 27-30).
- Our **faithful and loving Father** will keep us from stumbling (Jude 24).
- The **Holy Spirit** helps us in our weakness and reminds us that we can't be separated from the love of Christ (Romans 8:18-39).

### Small Group Discussion

**Q:** What stands out to you about these Gospel promises of eternal security? Who are the primary actors in protecting our souls?

**Q: Share** of a time when Gospel hope helped you move through a time of spiritual struggle, grief, or suffering. What were some of the promises that God used to encourage you?

**Q:** Why should knowing, understanding, and believing the Gospel be an essential component of our everyday lives?