

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Definition: “Evangelism is communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ with the intent of leading a person to repentance and faith in Christ.”

*What is the essential content of the gospel – the minimum truth a person has to know and believe in order to be saved?*

### Four Essential Points of the Gospel:

#### 1. We have to know who God is.

We can't believe in God if we don't know who he is (Heb 11:6).

The Bible assumes all people have an innate knowledge of God's existence – it is a self-evident truth (Ps 14:1). God has revealed himself to mankind through conscience (Rom 2:14-15), through creation (Ps 19:1-4; Rom 1:19-20), and ultimately through his Word (2Tim 3:16).

People must understand that God is their Creator.

People must understand that God is their Ruler.

#### 2. We have to know what sin is.

There are many words that describe sin in the Bible, but all of them are related to God's Law: lawlessness (Tit 2:14), transgression (Rom 4:15), rebellion (1Sam 15:23), disobedience (Rom 5:19), unrighteousness (Rom 1:29), and trespass (Rom 5:15-18).

The most common Greek word in the New Testament for sin is *hamartia* – it means missing the mark (Rom 3:23). The mark or standard God holds us accountable to is his own perfect, infinite righteousness.

The punishment for sin is death and eternal separation from God in a place called hell (Rom 6:23).

#### 3. We have to know who Jesus is.

He is not an ordinary man:

- Born of a virgin (Lk 1:26-35)
- 100% God and 100% man
- Perfect sinless life
- Miraculous ministry
- Substitutionary death and resurrection (Rom 5:8; 2Cor 5:21; 1Cor 15:1-8)

#### **4. We have to know what faith is.**

Faith is not just intellectual assent. Saving faith means knowing the truth about Jesus and trusting in him alone for your salvation (Eph 2:8-9; Rom 10:9-10).

What are you trusting in for salvation? Yourself... Jesus + Yourself... Jesus Alone

Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of behavior. It is essential for salvation (Mt 4:17; Lk 13:13), but it's not separate from faith; it's a vital part of faith. Faith and repentance are like two sides of the same coin. In order to turn to Jesus in faith, you have to turn away from sin in repentance. If a person is not repentant, they don't have real faith.