

1. Best News Ever in Scripture - The Gospel

- “Gospel” literally means “**good news**”.
- To clarify, when I use the term Gospel today, I am talking specifically about God’s plan to save people from the penalty for their sins and to make them His children forever.
- How would you answer if someone asked you, “What is the Gospel?” or “What must I do to be saved?”

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

- Simply put, the Gospel is that Jesus Christ **died**, was buried, but **rose again!**

2. Events during the week Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose again.

- By my count, there are **29** chapters written in the 4 Gospels covering this 1 week of history. That shows God thinks it’s important!
- Check out the “Chronology and Synopsis of the Passion Week” chart.

3. What the Gospel is - Jesus died, was placed in a tomb, and rose again.

- Jesus and His disciples finished the Last Supper together.
- Judas left to betray Jesus.
- Jesus and His disciples went to Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives to pray.

John 18:1-9 (Jesus arrested)

John 19:1-18 (Jesus on trial, but found innocent)

John 19:28-30 (It is finished... Jesus died)

Matthew 28:1-7 (Resurrection)

- That is the narrative or story of the Gospel... the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

4. What the Gospel isn't.

- Many false or unclear “Gospels” have been taught in **churches**. It’s just like Satan to confuse or hide the true Gospel. Have you heard any of these “ways to be saved” taught?
 - You need to believe in God.
 - You need to have stronger faith.
 - You need to pray a prayer.
 - You need to ask Jesus in your heart.
 - Say you’re sorry for your sins.
 - You need to have more good in your life than bad. Get your act together, overcome your addictions, repent and make Jesus your Lord.
 - All people are basically good, I’ve always had my faith, and God will save me as long as I don’t do any “big” sins.
 - You need some combination of the following: be baptized, take communion, be a church member, be confirmed, go through catechism, and by the way, donating a lot to the church will help your chances too!
- All of these things point to something **we** do rather than to what **Jesus** has already done to pay the penalty for our sins.
- If we think we can “good behavior” or “ritual” our way into heaven, then we have missed the true Gospel. (Galatians 2:21)

5. Thread of the Gospel throughout Scripture points to Jesus and the cross

- From Genesis 3 onward, Scripture has pointed to a **Promised Deliverer** who would do something to rescue people from sin and death.
- Keep the Good Friday and Easter story of Jesus in context with the unfolding story starting in Genesis.
 - Adam & Eve’s sin in the garden causing sin and death to spread to everyone... that’s the bad news!
 - God promised to send someone from Eve’s lineage to crush Satan’s authority over people.
 - Picture of Gospel when Abraham put his only son, Isaac, on the altar, but God provided a ram as a substitute to die in Isaac’s place.
 - Passover in Egypt. A male lamb, without blemish, and no broken bones killed and blood painted on doorposts was a picture of the Gospel.
 - The sacrificial system of animals being killed in the place of the sinner was a picture of Jesus, the Lamb of God, dying in our place.

Best News Ever - Lesson 21

- God's plan for the Israelites to look at the bronze snake up on the pole was a picture of the Gospel. The Israelites who looked up at the bronze snake were saved from death, and all who look to Jesus' work up on the cross will be saved from death and separation from God.
 - The text we read today was the reality of all that was foreshadowed. Jesus is God's Promised Deliverer who crushed Satan's authority over people when He chose to be our substitute Lamb and die in our place to pay the penalty for our sins. All who believe and look to His plan will not die and be separated from God, but will instead be given eternal life with God
- The Good News, the Gospel, the most important and best news ever is that Jesus did actually die, was buried, and rose again. He fulfilled God's plan of salvation.

6. What's our part?

- Our part is to **respond** to the Gospel by **believing** it. We need to receive the free gift.
 - John 3:16 whoever believes... will have eternal life.
 - **Ephesians 2:1-9**
 - **Romans 3:21-28**
- Jesus did all the work necessary to provide forgiveness and salvation, God requires that we respond by believing.
- The moment a person responds by believing the Gospel, God forgives all their sins - past, present, and **future** - and their eternal **relationship** with God begins that very moment. That's the best news ever isn't it?

7. Application:

- Tell a family member over lunch about how and when you responded to the Gospel and became a child of God.
- Email me with any questions you have. Don't let any questions about the Gospel go unanswered. It's the most important truth in Scripture to understand.
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