

The Glorious Gospel
Part 1: God
Providence Baptist Church
June 8, 2025

I. Introduction

A. Why a series on the gospel?

1. The difference between a true and false church
 - a. **Belgic Confession (1561), Article 29:** "The true church can be recognized if it has the following marks: The church engages in the pure preaching of the gospel; it makes use of the pure administration of the sacraments as Christ instituted them; it practices church discipline for correcting faults. In short, it governs itself according to the pure Word of God, rejecting all things contrary to it, and holding Jesus Christ as the only Head."
 - b. Three marks of the church: 1) the gospel; 2) ordinances (Baptism and Lord's Supper; 3) loving practice of church discipline)
2. Confusion surrounding what the gospel is
3. Necessary for salvation

B. What does the word "gospel" mean?

1. Gospel (εὐαγγέλιον/euangelion) means "Good News"
2. The gospel is the "good news" about the salvation God has provided through Jesus Christ.

C. How is the word "gospel" used in the New Testament?

1. [Jesus comes announcing it] **Mark 1:14–15** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, [15] and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the *gospel*."
2. [It's worth dying for] **Mark 8:34–35** And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."
3. [It is God's grace] **Acts 20:24** "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to *the gospel of the grace of God*."
4. [It is the power of God for salvation] **Romans 1:16** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is *the power of God for salvation* to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
5. [It brings peace] **Ephesians 6:14–15** "Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by *the gospel of peace*."
6. [It holds out hope] **Colossians 1:23** "if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from *the hope of the gospel* that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister."

7. [It is to be proclaimed in all the world] **Matthew 24:14** “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed *throughout the whole world* as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

II. The Gospel in Four Parts

- A. God
- B. People
- C. Christ
- D. Response

III. God

- A. The essential starting point (not us, but God)
- B. What are some common understandings of God in the culture?
- C. What does the Bible tell us about God?
 1. [He is eternal] **Psalms 90:1-2** “Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”
 2. [He is holy] **Isaiah 6:3** And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” (cf., **Revelation 4:8** And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”)
 3. [He is sovereign] **Isaiah 40:25-26** “To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.” (**Romans 11:33-36** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.)
 4. [He created all things] **Genesis 1:1** “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Including us: **Genesis 1:26-27** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.)
 5. [He is loving and just] **Exodus 34:6-7** The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

- D. We live in a God-centered universe. All things were created for his glory (that is, to show or display the greatness of God).
- E. You were made for his glory . . .
 - 1. **Isaiah 43:6–7** I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”
 - 2. **Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #1** What is the chief end of man? Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

IV. Q&A

Study Questions

1. What does the word ‘gospel’ mean? How does the New Testament talk about the gospel?
2. What does it mean that God is holy? Sovereign? Loving? Just?
3. Why are we not totally independent creatures as human beings? What is it about God that makes us accountable to him?
4. Why do we exist? What is the ultimate purpose for human beings?

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (1867)
(Trinity Hymnal #38)

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.*

*Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.*