

Bob Kauflin

## SESSION 3 | Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

### I. INTRODUCTION

A professed understanding vs. a functional understanding of the gospel

### II. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL

#### A. No one is righteous before God. (Rom. 3:19-21)

“In our everyday relationship with God, most of us are not different in our thinking than the unbelievers who think they will go to Heaven because they’ve been good enough.”  
p. 48

Here’s what makes that thought difficult to grasp at times.

We can please him. (2 Cor. 5:9)

We can walk in a manner worthy of the gospel. (Phil. 1:27)

We can pursue holiness. (Heb. 12:14)

We can walk in a manner worthy of the calling we’ve received. (Eph. 4:1)

We can live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives. (Titus 2:12)

But we **cannot** be righteous in God’s eyes in and of ourselves.

Righteousness is measured in terms of who God is, not in terms of who we are.

#### B. There is a righteousness from God that is apart from the Law. (Rom. 3:21)

“Apart from the Law” means apart from **our obedience** to the Law.

- C. This Righteousness from God is received Through Faith in Jesus Christ. (Rom. 3:22)

*"Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."  
(Ecclesiastes 7:20, ESV).*

"For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:20, ESV) we believe it.

"be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—" (Philippians 3:9, ESV)

"The value of faith is not to be found in itself, but entirely and exclusively in its object, namely Jesus Christ and him crucified. To say 'justification by faith alone' is another way of saying 'justification by Christ alone.' Faith is the eye that looks to him, the hand that receives his free gift, the mouth that drinks the living water." John Stott, p. 117

"All other systems teach some form of self-salvation through good works of religion, righteousness or philanthropy. Christianity, by contrast, is not in its essence a religion at all; it is a gospel, the gospel, good news that God's grace has turned away his wrath, that God's Son has died our death and borne our judgment, that God has mercy on the undeserving, and that there is nothing left for us to do, or even contribute. Faith's only function is to receive what grace offers." John Stott, p. 118

- D. This righteousness is available to everyone on the same basis, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:22-23)

God's gift of salvation is open to everyone and is needed by everyone.

- E. All who put their faith in Jesus Christ are justified freely by God's grace. (Rom. 3:24)

"Grace is God loving, God stooping, God coming to the rescue, God giving himself generously in and through Jesus Christ." John Stott

- F. This justification is "through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Rom. 3:24)

*“And because of him [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”” (1 Corinthians 1:30–31, ESV)*

Jesus is my righteousness, a legal term indicating that I am no longer condemned, but forgiven and welcomed.

Jesus is my sanctification, a temple term indicating that I am no longer defiled and unclean, but holy and separated to God.

Jesus is my redemption, a market term indicating that I am no longer enslaved and under the power of sin, but free to love and obey God’s commands from the heart.

- G. God presented [Jesus] as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in his blood. (Rom. 3:25)

“The wisdom of God devised a way for the love of God to deliver sinners from the wrath of God while not compromising the righteousness of God.” John Piper

“God gave himself to save us from himself.” John Stott

### III. WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE NEED THE GOSPEL

- A. I can’t benefit from something I don’t think I need. I can’t be cleansed by the blood of Christ if I’m looking to my own acts to do it.
- B. Our responses reveal how much we think we need the Gospel.

- Praise and Criticism

My every sense, member, faculty, affection, is a snare to me. I can scarce open  
my eyes but I envy those above me,  
Or despise those below.  
If I behold beauty it is a bait to lust,  
Or see deformity, it stirs up loathing and disdain.  
Am I gifted? How I lust after applause!

Am I in authority? How prone to abuse my trust,  
Make will my law, exclude others' enjoyments,  
Serve my own interests and policy! (Valley of Vision, p. 74)

- Failure and Success
- Persistent sin
- Hopelessness

“remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” (Ephesians 2:12, ESV)

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (Ephesians 2:13, ESV)

“**by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances**, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,” (Ephesians 2:15, ESV)

#### IV. WE NEED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES AND HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO US

- A. When we read the Bible
- B. When we pray
- C. Through memorizing Scripture (Phil. 3:7-9, Phil. 1:20, Acts 20:24, 1 Pet. 2:24-25, 2 Cor. 5:21)
- D. When we sing
- E. When we sit under preaching

F. When we fellowship

G. Through confessing sin

“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13, ESV)

H. Through gratefulness

“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32, ESV)

I. Through serving

J. Through suffering

K. Through prosperity

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