

Week 1 - Intro, Finding the Gospel in the Bible

Intro Question - What is the gospel? In your own words, what is the good news of Christianity? “There are a lot of definitions of “the gospel.” Because some definitions are better than others, we must be discerning. A clear and biblical understanding of the gospel will cause Christians to swell with praise and joy, to grow in confidence as they talk about their faith, and to make sure their churches defend and uphold biblical truth. Similarly, understanding the gospel rightly will provoke non-Christians to think and respond in an informed manner.”

Question 1 - What are some ways you may be tempted to dull the edges of the gospel in conversations with others?

There are truths from the gospel that don't line up with what the world thinks. We may be tempted to make these “edges” softer for the sake of reaching the world. We might not emphasize the fact that people are called to live under the authority of God instead of pleasing themselves. We may have to speak out against sin that clings closely to people. We may have to teach them that they cannot be good enough to save themselves. But if we soften these edges, the gospel will no longer hold the power of salvation because people will miss essential parts of what it means to follow Jesus.

Question 2 - What do you do when you want to know if something is true? What source do you trust when you have a question about God or Christianity?

There is information all around us in our age of technology. We can ask questions to Alexa or Google and get an immediate answer. There are many sources that people tend to look to for truth both outside themselves and in their own heart. As Christians asking what the gospel is, we must find the truth about the gospel in the Bible.

Question 3: Why is the Bible the reliable source for defining the gospel truthfully over tradition, human reason, or human experience?

The Bible is from God, so it is truthful and unchanging. The Bible's standard of truth does not ebb and flow with human preferences or emotions. The Bible shows us God's truth as it always has been and as it always will be.

Question 4: Read Romans 3:10-20 again. What is the bad news and how have you seen this problem play out in your life or the lives of others?

We are all sinners who are going to be held accountable for our sin before a just and holy God.

Question 5: Now look at Romans 3:21-31. Paul repeats the word “faith” eight times in these eleven verses. Why is this important?

Our salvation before a holy God does not come through our good works or through any man-made power. Our salvation is depended on faith alone. We are saved by believing in Jesus.

Question 6: Using the words God, Man, Christ, Response can you explain the gospel in less than 60 seconds?