

Week 5 - Response: Repentance and Faith

Intro Question - *What are the three sections of the gospel message that we have talked about in recent weeks? Explain them.*

God, Man, Christ. Talk through the idea of God being a righteous Creator, Mankind falling into the guilt of sin, and Christ being the Savior who promises to make things right between God and Man.

Question 1 - *If faith isn't just believing in something you can't prove, then what is it?*

“Faith is reliance. A rock-solid, truth-grounded, promise-founded trust in the risen Jesus to save you from sin.” (Gilbert 74) Hebrews 11:1 describes faith as assurance of things not seen. It is certainty in a promise that has been made, even though we can't see the fruition of the promise. Faith is not silly belief against all evidence, it is certainty in the promise-keeping character of God.

Question 2 - *What exactly are we relying on Jesus for?*

“We are relying on him to secure for us a righteous verdict from God the Judge, rather than a guilty one... Our righteousness before God is not our own. It is given to us by Jesus. God looked at his Son and saw our sin, and he looks at us and sees Jesus' righteousness. As the song says, ‘God the just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me.’” (Gilbert 76-78)

Question 3 - *Talk about the uniqueness of Christianity's insistence that we are saved not simply by faith, but by faith alone.*

“Every other religion in human history rejects this idea that we are justified by faith alone. Instead, other religions assert that salvation is won through moral effort, good deeds, and somehow balancing one's account by accruing enough merit to outweigh one's evil... Putting your faith in Christ means that you utterly renounce any other hope of being counted righteous before God.” (Gilbert 78-79)

Question 4 - *If we're saved by faith alone, why is repentance necessary?*

“To have faith in Jesus is, at its core, to believe that he really is who he says he is—the crucified and risen King who has conquered death and sin, and who has the power to save. Now how could a person believe all that, trust in it, and rely on it, and yet at the same time say, ‘But I don't acknowledge that you are King over me?’” (Gilbert 80)

Question 5 - *Why is it impossible to receive Jesus as Savior but resist Him as Lord?*

“Faith in Christ carries in itself a renunciation of that rival power that King Jesus conquered—sin. And where that renunciation of sin is not present, neither is genuine faith in the One who defeated it. It is as Jesus said in Matthew 6:24: ‘No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.’ To put one's faith in King Jesus is to renounce his enemies.” (Gilbert 80)