

II. The Gospel of Jesus Christ in Biblical Perspective
The Majesty, Message and Ministry of the Gospel
“The Gospel is a Message of God”
Romans 1:1-6
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September 16, 2012 – Morning Sermon

Here is what the Apostle Paul says in Romans 1:15-17, [15] *So I am eager to preach **the** gospel to you also who are in Rome. [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. [17] For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached to you.

We are in what I believe what is the most important series of sermons I have ever preached in my life. I have titled the series “The Majesty, Message and Ministry of the Gospel.” In this study we move to the message of the Gospel. In the last study we looked at the majesty of the Gospel, the importance of the Gospel and how it’s only defined by God’s Word. We will spend six studies in the message of the Gospel and then we’ll spend about six more studies on the ministry of the Gospel to save sinners.

I’d like to highlight why I believe this is important. Here is one way. Not long ago I was preaching in a wonderful conference and afterwards they had a forum for discussion. There was a question that was put to me this way. “Pastor what do you think about this statement? ‘Not creeds but deeds’ as a statement of Christianity.” I think I understand whatever movement is behind that statement in our contemporary evangelical church. I think part of it is that so many get the creed right but never transfers into life. Therefore we are put at disadvantage because we talk a great message but it is not lived out in the lives of those who hold to it.

I don’t think the answer is not the removal of creeds so when I was pressed to answer this I said “The first thing I think about that is that it’s a creed. Not creeds but deeds, is a creed but you’re saying you don’t need creeds, yet it’s a creed. Secondly, what deeds? I know people I can take you to even in professing churches that believe the choice to take the life of an unborn child is a good deed, the choice to put people out of life (misery) with active Euthanasia is a good deed to some. There are some in mainline denominations that say these are good deeds.” My point simply was that you can’t have good deeds until you have a creed that defines good deeds. Good deeds aren’t what we think by intuition or imagination but what God says is good.

Why do we do good deeds? What are the motivations behind that? All of that are in the confession of what we believe. That’s why the Bible contains confession after confession and that’s why we’re told in worship to make a common confession of truth. We are to declare what we believe and that’s what God has called us to do. The most foundational issue of what we believe is the Gospel. In the last study under that heading of the majesty of the Gospel I tried to share with you two unassailable, absolutely essential facts about the majesty of the Gospel.

The first fact is the Gospel is the foundation, the formation and the motivation of the Christian life. It is the foundation because it’s how you are saved and founded for

eternity. It is the Good News that God saved sinners through the atoning death of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross and He brings us from death unto life when we turn from our sins and put our trust in Him alone for salvation – that glorious foundational truth. The Gospel is not only the foundation that is used to bring people to Christ but it is the formation for the life of Christ. Notice what Paul said in the passage I just read in Romans 1:15, [15] *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.* When I get to the verses I'm about to read we will find out who the 'you' he is talking about here, who the "ya'll" are that he wants to preach the Gospel to. It is to the saints in Rome. Pastor, do you preach the Gospel to believers? Absolutely, because the Gospel is not only the foundation to bring the lost to Christ but it is the formation of the Christian life. You don't go beyond the Gospel but you go deeper, higher and wider in every part of your Christian life.

Then it is the motivation of the Christian life. Why do we live the Christian life? It is because we love Jesus. He says "If you love Me you'll keep My commandments." Why do we love Jesus? It is because He (Gospel) first loved us and set us free from our sins. If the Gospel is that important do you not think Satan would not want to dilute it? Would you not think he would want to distract us? Would you not think he would not want to adulterate it if the Gospel is *the* Gospel? Notice the definite article in Romans 1:15 and 16 in front of the word Gospel. That means there is something called Gospel. It's not sincerity that gets you to heaven. It is Jesus communicated through the Gospel. Sincerity doesn't make a wrong thing believed, right. Sincerity in wrong belief merely means sincerely wrong.

So what does it mean to get the Gospel right? We learned in our last study that the only place to find out what the Gospel says is to go to the Bible. It says that Jesus died according to the Scriptures. He was raised according to the Scriptures. Satan would want to dilute, adulterate and distract from the Gospel. Therefore it is absolutely crucial that we hold fast to the Gospel. In fact he told the church at Galatia "I don't care if an apostle shows up doing miracles or if someone who claims to be an angel shows up for if anybody preaches another gospel, it's not a gospel and take that angel out of the pulpit by his ethereal pants and throw him out the window." Paul actually says it much more powerfully than I just said it. He says "Let him be anathema – accursed, the eternal judgment of God to fall upon anyone who would distort the Gospel to deceive others."

If the Gospel is that important and that definitive, then we need to know it and understand it. That's why I gave you a second thing about the Gospel. The word Gospel comes from the Greek word *euangellion*. In the Bible and in the era in which the Bible is written the word *euangellion* is birthed out of a particular environment. How is the word *euangellion* used? It means 'good news' – 'eu' means good and 'angellion' means message. When you proclaim the Gospel you are proclaiming Good News and a Good Tiding. How was it used? The birth of the word *euangellion* in your Bible and in history was a royal proclamation by a king. It was because the king made it. The king is proclaiming "I have won the victory." The king would lead the city, go to the battle, win the victory and when he came back there would be a royal proclamation of emancipation and victory. The king would have it read from the cities of the wall. Then he would put it in the hands of emissaries and he would tell them to go to the mountains and villages of the land proclaiming good news, victory.

It is a regal proclamation that the king has won the victory over all of his enemies and in context of the Gospel message in Christianity, the King has won the victory over all of His enemies – sin, death, hell, the grave and has fulfilled His mission. What did the King come to do? He came to save His people from their sins. Good News, the King has done it! The King has won the victory. God, your King, reigns. That's why in Isaiah it says to publish glad tidings. Get yourself up on a mountain. You are the emissary to have been saved. Get yourself up on a mountain. Go to the wall and announce good news for God reigns. His enemies have been defeated at the cross. The King came, went to the cross, won the victory, has risen and now publishes Good News. That's what evangelism is - God's people announcing, not advising, not negotiating, with conviction of victory and the humility that's born of the message, the Good News. Now there are honest questions and honest answers.

What do I mean by that? The Gospel is the regal proclamation that the King has triumphed over all His enemies and has saved His people from their sins. What were they? They were His enemies. Romans 5:8 says *[8] but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*. It was while we were enemies, He saved us from our sins. The emissaries who were saved who published the Good News were enemies that He saved from their sins. So we make that proclamation. It is not a proposal. It's not advice. It's an announcement. The Gospel is not your testimony. Our testimony can open the door to share the Gospel. Our testimony can be a vehicle to share the Gospel but our testimony is not the Gospel. Our testimony is the effect of the Gospel. It is a blessing of the Gospel. Our testimony can give affirmation to the Gospel but the Gospel is the message, the royal proclamation.

Now what is the Gospel message? Let's move from majesty to message now. I believe there are five elements to the message of the Gospel, this royal proclamation. I got this outline from J.I. Packard's book Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God and in this book he lays out a rubric of the Gospel. I don't mind using Packard because all he did was use the Apostle Paul. He went to the book of Romans and noticed that Paul was going to go to Spain. The same Paul who used Antioch and Ephesus as his home church is not going to Spain to find another home church. He will use the church at Rome but he wants to make sure this home church understands the Gospel. That's why he says in Romans 1:16 *[16] For I am not ashamed of **the** gospel...* for he was going to preach the Gospel in Rome.

He gives this exposition of the Gospel in the book of Romans and what does he cover in Romans 1? He covers the doctrine of God. What does he cover in Romans 2 and 3? He covers man as a sinner. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23. What does he cover in Romans 4 and 5? Jesus is the solution to our problem of sin. So the first three elements of the Gospel message are God, sin, and Jesus Christ. Number four is grace and Paul covers this in Romans 6 through 8. We are saved by grace in Jesus Christ. Then in Romans 9 through 16 covers the life of faith and repentance which is the fifth element of the Gospel message. The Gospel calls you to faith and repentance not as the act of a moment but of the acquisition of a life – to live by faith, turning from sin to follow Christ. Those are the five elements of the Gospel – God, man as a sinner, Jesus Christ, grace and then faith and repentance which is the call of the Gospel. We will walk through each one of those and in this study we will look at the first one which is the doctrine of God.

Not only does the book of Romans do that which J.I. Packard pulled out in his book, but Paul also set it up as a synopsis right in the opening verses. Let's see if these five elements are here in Paul's introduction. Romans 1:1-7 says [1] *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the **gospel of God** (the Gospel is a message about God), [2] which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures (you know the Gospel from the Bible, the Scriptures. You don't get it from intuition or philosophy. It stands in absolute contrast to every religion in the world. The message of the Gospel is what God came to do for you and how He came to set you free.), [3] concerning his **Son (Jesus Christ)**, who was descended from David according to the flesh [4] and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, [5] through whom we have received **grace** and apostleship to bring about the obedience of **faith** for the sake of his name among all the nations, [6] including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, [7] To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

All five of the elements are in those introductory verses of Romans 1. It is the Gospel of God to save sinners. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Who saves us? It is Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, born according to the flesh according to the seed of David, the Son of God declared by the resurrection. How does He save? We receive grace. How is grace manifested in our lives? It is through the obedience of faith. Repentance and faith is the evidence of that grace at work within our life. Where does He start? It is with the Gospel of God. I believe if you don't get the first element right you can't get the other four elements right. In other words you can't get sin (man), Jesus Christ, grace and faith and repentance right. You have to get right first of all the doctrine of God.

Now other than Jesus who is the greatest evangelist revealed in the Bible? It is probably Paul who was a religious terrorist who killed Christians. He was converted and the man who killed Christians became the most effective in winning Christians. He was even a part of turning the world upside down according to Acts 17:6. Did Paul use these five elements and did he use them in sharing, proclaiming, announcing the Gospel? I believe the preeminent evangelist Paul, has a preeminent text that everyone ought to work from. That's when he went to Europe and continued his work of evangelism, taking the Gospel first to the Jew and then to the Gentiles. He is right in the midst of pagans. Would he in the midst of pagans, first time communicating, announce these five elements? Let's look at that text in Acts 17.

So we covered the five elements and now let's look at the first and foundational element of the Gospel Message which is God. That must be in our communication. I believe that every time the Apostle Paul evangelized he got these five elements in and he always started with the doctrine of God, not Jesus, not forgiveness. There is one exception but he always begins with the doctrine of God. Then he moves to man is a sinner. Then he moves to Jesus Christ who is the answer from God to man's sin. Then he moves to how God saves you through grace. Then he moves to what God gives you to be joined to Him through faith and repentance. I will give you the only exception in a moment but right now let's look at one of the times that he does it.

In Acts 17 the Apostle Paul is in Athens and he is waiting for his team to show up. Acts 17:16 says [16] *Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was*

provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. Let me stop here for a moment. Athens was not only filled with idols, we are too. We have the idols of entertainment, sports, recreation, technology, money, power and the idol of everything. We even take good things that God has given us and turn them into idols like our children or our marriages. We have this heart that always has this propensity toward idolatry. Does that provoke you or have we signed peace treaties with idols? Paul signed no peace treaties. When he saw an idol he was provoked because it was raised up in blasphemy against glory to God and it deceived others into emptiness. Other gospels and idols are hell filling doctrines. That's why he wants to get the Gospel right and he's provoked when he sees idols. Let's look further.

Acts 17:17-18 says [17] *So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews (the Jew first) and the devout persons, and in the marketplace (the Gentiles) every day with those who happened to be there. [18] Some of the Epicurean (the elite culture makers) and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.*

I recently read some things from this Jesus Seminar that claimed that Christianity is just the evolving religion from the Greek philosophies of the day that was penetrated by Hebrew religion. Not according to the Greek philosophers because when they heard Paul they didn't say you have an evolution of Greek philosophy. They said he was preaching something totally different. This is unique. He is a babbler they said. What are these new things he is teaching? They wanted to know more about what he was saying so they invited him to talk to them.

Acts 17:19-22 says [19] *And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? [20] For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." [21] Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. (So how will Paul announce the Regal Proclamation?) [22] So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. Everybody you talk to is a believer and a worshiper. The question is not do they believe or do they worship. The question is what do they believe and who do they worship? In their pagan mythology there was no way you could comprehend the majesty of God so they put up one called the 'unknown god' to fill the gaps. So what does Paul say to them?*

Acts 17:23-28 says [23] *For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. [24] **The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, [25] nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. [26] And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [27] that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, [28] for " 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.'***

Notice where Paul started, he didn't start with Jesus or sin or grace or faith and repentance. He started with God and he says eleven things about God in the text and I've tried to distill them into five categories. The first thing he says about God is that He is your Creator. He made every single one of you. In fact every single one of you has the same human daddy. His name is Adam. Your forbearer is Adam. By the way, if you wanted to attack the Gospel with a flank attack and the Gospel is a Gospel of God and God the Creator, what might be one of your attacks? You would attack God as Creator, the doctrine of creation and the historicity of Adam and Eve.

I love this text because using this text I can tell people just how stupid racism is. Why? We don't have different races that cropped up around the world. There are ethnicities but we are the human race and we all have one father, named Adam. Yes Paul believed in the historical Adam and Eve. Yes he believed that God created by the Word of His mouth and made Adam from the dust of the ground. Paul brought it right to people who didn't believe it like pagan philosophers and he started with the doctrine of God as Creator. He speaks of this God as transcendent. He even quotes some of their philosophers on this. You might be thinking "Can people who don't know the Lord get truth right sometimes?" Absolutely. A clock that is broken is still right two times a day. Now you don't want to trust that clock so I'm not going to trust the philosophy of men but by God's common grace they'll get things right every once in a while, but I'm going to build my life on God's revealed Word. God has revealed Himself in creation, in His Word and Paul declares that God is Creator and brought everything around us into being. He made you for His glory.

Not only is He transcendent but He's eminent. God is not only your Creator but secondly He is your Sovereign. Thirdly He is your Sustainer. Let's see how this is true. Acts 17:29-34 says [29] *Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.* [30] *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,* [31] *because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.* [32] *Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."* [33] *So Paul went out from their midst.* [34] *But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.*

Do you see what he does here? All five elements are there. There is the doctrine of God, man is a sinner, Jesus Christ is the Answer, salvation by grace through what Christ has done for you and you have the call to faith and repentance. But in the doctrine of God there are five things he reveals about God. God is the Creator. God is Sovereign. Look back at Acts 17:24-26 which says [24] *The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,* [25] *nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.* [26] *And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, **having determined** allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.* That is called the doctrine of predestination. God before you existed determined.

If I was to announce that I was going to do four sermons on Sunday morning on the doctrine of predestination I would get emails. They would be well meaning and well

motivated but you would be saying to me “Pastor Reeder, that is a Biblical doctrine and it needs to be handled in a small group for the mature Christians.” Paul preached the sovereignty of God to the lost in evangelism. The Gospel is the announcement of the King and He has no rivals. He made me. He did not send a message down that said “Harry how would you like to be? Perhaps you want your height to be six foot one (which has now diminished for gravity is winning in my life).” Gravity will win until I’m six feet under. God didn’t ask me that. God sovereignly made me. He gave me my dad, mom, the lines of life where I am and He made me as He made me. He is the Potter and I am the clay. He is sovereign over all and the sovereign God has determined where I am. Paul doesn’t put that as something we can go and check later and if you want to acknowledge the sovereignty of God after you’re saved we’ll negotiate it. He puts it right up front.

God is Creator. God is Sovereign. God is Sustainer. In Him you live and move and have your being. The reason your heart is beating right now is because He is letting it. God is also your Judge. He has appointed a time in which He will judge the world. You might think “Wait I thought we were talking about the Gospel?” Judge is the bad news. The Gospel saving us from our sins is the fulfillment of Good News. I’d like to show you a passage in Romans 2 to see if Paul is consistent with this. Romans 2:12-16 says *[12] For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. [13] For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. [14] For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. [15] They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them [16] on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.*

God ‘judges men on that day’ is a part of the Gospel. So God is Creator. God is Sovereign. God is Sustainer. God is Judge and now we see God as Savior who has given His Son to save you from your sins. God creates. God is Sovereign. God sustains. God will judge and I say this reverently that God has no choice. He is holy. I will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. He didn’t have to do this but I have Good News and that is the fifth foundational element – God saves sinners. He must judge. He did not have to save. The wages of sin is death but because of God’s grace and mercy He saves sinners.

I want to leave you with the takeaway and have you look at Ephesians 1 with me. We will do this with each one of these five elements of the Gospel message and here’s the first one. The takeaway is the Gospel is first and foremost a Regal message that the Triune God of glory saves sinners by and for the praise of His glorious grace. If you don’t get that right we can’t get anything else right. When we talk about sin we find that sin is transgressing God’s law. We can’t get Jesus right because Jesus is the Son of God. We can’t get grace right because it’s the grace of God. We can’t get faith and repentance right because who gives the gifts of faith and repentance? It is God. So, all of this is foundational. These five elements of the Gospel are crucial and the most crucial because if you get it wrong, it’s like the trajectory on cutting a piece of wood. If you get it wrong at the beginning you’ll get it wrong later.

We always need to start with the doctrine of God except when Paul went to the synagogue. When he went to the synagogue he never started with God. He never started with sin. He went straight to point three – Jesus Christ. Why? In the synagogue they already knew about God and they already knew about sinners. He said the solution that God promised has come. So he started there. I think there was a time that you and I could do synagogue evangelism in Birmingham, Alabama. There was this common cultural understanding of who is God, who is Jesus, what is sin. I don't think you can do that anymore. I don't think you can just start with Jesus because many times from the churches there is a mis-defining of Jesus and sin. Sin is kind of like something that gets in the way of you being successful in life. Sin is treason against God. Sin is assaulting the glory of God. I just don't think you can automatically assume that everybody knows what sin is, who Jesus is, what it means to trust, believe and repent and what God's grace is. What does God's grace mean? I don't think we can do that anymore.

Let's just close with Ephesians 1. By the way Ephesians 1:3-14 is one sentence that Paul wrote. There are 228 words in that sentence. In other words, there are English teachers today that would have flunked him in grammar. Although this sentence was 228 words this sentence was unbelievably organized. Ephesians 1:3 says [3] ***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.*** I had a lady come up to me one time and say "Pastor Reeder I really enjoyed your sermon." I said "Thank you, praise the Lord." She said "I think you have the second blessing." I said "Yes ma'am, I do." Then I whispered in her ear "I have the third one." She said "The what?" I said "The third blessing and the fourth blessing." She said "I hadn't heard about them." I then took her to this passage in Ephesians 1:3.

He goes on to say in Ephesians 1:4-12, [4] *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. [7] In him (Christ) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. [11] In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, [12] so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.*

Do you see what he has done? The Father has authored your salvation to the praise of His glory. In Ephesians 1:6-12 the Son has accomplished your salvation to the praise of His glory. Now let's look at the last couple of verses in Ephesians 1:13-14 which says [13] *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

What is the Gospel? It is the message of the Triune God. It is a Regal proclamation that the Triune God has saved His people by His grace and for the praise of the glory of His grace. In other words, the God who made you sent His Son to save you. The God who sustains you and yet instead of us giving praise to Him we have pursued

idols yet the God who sustains you sent His Son to save you. The God who is and must judge sinners has sent His Son, not to judge you but to save you. The God who is sovereign has sovereignly chosen to save you. God the Father is sending grace, God the Son is saving grace and God the Holy Spirit is sealing grace.

What would happen in our lives if we again understood that the Gospel of God gets us right with God, to the praise of the glory of the grace of God? What would that do to our deeds? What would that creed do if embraced in our hearts? What deeds would then come forth? We would by the mercies of God present ourselves and our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service of worship (Romans 12:1). We would become God centered, God awed, God filled to the praise of the glory of His grace.

So first and foremost this Regal proclamation is a Gospel of God from God because of God, through God to the praise of the glory of the grace of God. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. Dear friend if you are reading this today I have Good News. I don't have a gospel of Briarwood for you. I do have a Gospel that Briarwood believes. I don't have a gospel of Harry Reeder. What I do have to share with you is the Gospel of God. It is that God the Father has sent His Son, and God the Son has saved sinners and God the Holy Spirit seals them. God sent His Son, His Son gave His life and then He gave the Holy Spirit to give you life that you might come to the Son to the praise of the glory of the Father. So would you come? This proclamation has been given. He doesn't negotiate but He freely receives. Come just as you are. It is this God who one day you will have to deal with when He will judge the secrets and deeds of our life but this God has so loved sinners He gave His Son to those who didn't want Him, for those whom He didn't need, He loved you. Dear Father, as those reading this who would make that commitment and say "Jesus I come" help us to help them walk in the triumph of the King. Father, I ask this finally for those of us who have been saved, who were enemies that the King has saved, would You give us the humility that this is Jesus' proclamation of His glory, not ours but we have now been saved for His glory, so would You give to us the heart of conviction that proclaims and the heart of humility that points men and women to our Savior alone who is King. Christ, Immortal, Invisible, the Only God, wise and glorious, our Savior forever, Amen!