

# The Gospel — Defined

November 9, 2014

## The Gospel defined

- the word “gospel” used many ways in popular culture
- the word “gospel” in Greek means “Good News” — used 77 times in New Testament
- the word “gospel” meaning to preach the “Good News” — used 55 times in New Testament

## If the gospel is not the greatest news you have ever heard —

- you have an inadequate view of how heinously offensive sin is to God
- you have an inadequate view of the severity of God’s judgment of sinners
- you have an abysmal view of heaven

## Good News

### Luke 2:10-11

- the angel brought good tidings of great joy to all people — born a Savior Christ the Lord

### Matthew 1:21

- Jesus came to do for us — what we could not do for ourselves
- there is a judgment for sin — that we need to be saved from

### Luke 3:7

- John the Baptist says there is a coming wrath to the unrepentant Christ-rejecter

### John 3:36

- the wrath of God abides on every unbeliever — no eternal life

### Matthew 5:22

- Jesus warns of hell fire

### March 9:43-44

- Jesus says that in hell the fire is never quenched

### Luke 12:5

- Jesus warns about hell and wrath — a good reason for people to fear God!

### Romans 1:18

- Paul taught about wrath 7 times in Romans alone, 10 times in the gospels

Paul does not deny or diminish the reality of the wrath of God — but he does make more of the gospel of God

**You have to know the bad news —  
Otherwise the good news isn't that good!**

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**Cultural views on wrath and judgment**

**Genesis 19:14**

- God's judgment and wrath is no joke
- His judgment and wrath cannot be escaped — apart from Jesus

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**Why wrath and hell?**

**Can't God just forgive everyone in the end?**

- No! His justice and goodness demands that sin be judged
  - God told Adam judgment would come as a result of disobedience
    - Psalm 51:5 — we are conceived in iniquity
    - Ephesians 2:3 — we are by nature children of wrath
  - God told Moses
    - Exodus 34:6 — the LORD is merciful, gracious, long-suffering, abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin
    - by no means clearing the guilty
  - God throughout history
    - Romans 3:23; 6:23 — all have sinned; wages of sin is death; gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus

**The bad news is —**

- we were all conceived in sin, brought forth in iniquity
- we were all children of wrath, with God's wrath abiding on us
- God doesn't just overlook sin, and clear the guilty
- you can't save yourself; if you could — Jesus came, suffered, and died for nothing
- hell is real and eternal, it's forever

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**But, the good news is —**

**John 3:16-77**

- even in our sin, you are loved right now
- you don't have to perish in hell
- you can have everlasting life

- God wants to save you

### **Ephesians 2:4, 8-9**

- God is rich in mercy; He has great love for you
- you can be made alive through Jesus — it's by His grace
  - you can't save yourself — it's His gift

**The Gospel isn't mainly about what we must do  
It's about what God has already done!**

### **Revelation 21:1-5**

- heaven is real, eternal, lasts forever — God with us and us with God
- no tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain — all things become new!

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### **What must I do to be saved?**

#### **Mark 1:14-15**

1. Repent — change mind, direction — God allows u-turns
2. Believe — trust; cling to the good news; Jesus paid the price for my sins; I trust only that
3. Receive — John 1:12 — those who received Him and believed in His name
4. Confess — Matthew 10:32-33 — if you confess Jesus before men, Jesus will confess you before the Father

**Are you ready?**

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. Is “The Gospel” the best news you have ever heard? Did you think of it that way before this sermon?
2. Discuss the two separate concepts in Matthew 1:21.
3. Why is it easier for us to listen to a gospel of convenience than to a gospel on conviction?  
Would you choose to invite a friend to church based on what kind of sermon it would be?
4. The idea of the “reality of hell” is mocked by many people today.  
How would you be able to tell a friend of its reality — and of impending judgment?
5. Why can God not just forgive everyone in the end? (This is what your friends will want to know.)
6. Psalm 51:5 and Ephesians 2:3 say that we were all conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity.  
What does that mean? Are you able to explain that to someone else?
7. Pastor Steve said that hell is filled with people terrorized with “regret.” What would they regret?  
What could you do about it?
8. The last part of the outline is “What must I do to be saved?” Discuss, understand, memorize.