

The Gospel — Discovered

November 16, 2014

The Gospel Defined (review)

- Jesus came to save from sins — Matthew 1:21
 - we could not save ourselves; sin brings judgment that we must be saved from
- penalty of sins is the wrath of God — Romans 5:9
- Good News — John 3:17 — God sent His Son that we might be saved

The Gospel Discovered

1) Salvation

rescued, delivered, made whole, forgiven of sins' penalty and power

Romans 1:16

- gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation

Ephesians 2:8-9

- we are saved by grace, the unmerited favor of God, and not because of anything we have done

I John 5:11-13

- he who has the Son has life

**The gospel is God's 1) power 2) grace 3) gift, and
4) assurance to us. That's GOOD NEWS!**

2) Sanctification

to be made holy in God's sight

Hebrews 10:10

- we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all

Hebrews 10:14

- by one offering He perfected forever those who are being sanctified

**Believers' holy, sanctified position before God was settled once and for all,
through the offering of Jesus.**

**We have been perfected forever in God's sight, while we are
growing in holiness as we walk with Jesus.**

I Corinthians 1:2

- those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints

Believers are sanctified saints, holy, perfect standing before God — GOOD NEWS!

3) Justification to declare innocent, blameless, treated “just-as-if-I’ve-never sinned”

Romans 5:1

- having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ

Romans 5:8-9

- while we were still sinners, Christ died for us; we were justified by His blood; saved from wrath through Him

**My justification is a settled issue — I have peace with God,
not shame and condemnation.**

**If God loved us when we were sinners, how much more now when we have become
justified saints! In Christ, I’m holy and innocent. That’s GOOD NEWS!**

4) Reconciliation brought fully into friendship with God, “at-one-ment” with Him

Colossians 1:21

- you were once alienated and enemies, He has reconciled

John 15:15

- Jesus no longer calls us servants, but calls us friends

John 17:21

- that we may be one in Christ, as he is One with the Father

**Is Christ a sinner, will Christ be condemned?
You’re one with Him. That’s GOOD NEWS!**

5) Identification who I am in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17

- if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; not a new and improved old creation

Colossians 1:21-22

- Christ has reconciled through His death — to present us holy, blameless, and above reproach in His sight

**Reconciliation, sanctification, justification, salvation —
all part of your new identification! That’s GOOD NEWS!**

**The only ways for them to be bad news in your life —
is to diminish or disbelieve them.**

“...if the gospel isn’t the biggest, best, greatest good news you’ve ever heard, you should be very doubtful whether you’re even a Christian.” Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (www.mljtrust.org)

6) Demonstration

the gospel is a present demonstration of the future glory of the Kingdom and rule and reign of God that will come

Matthew 4:23

- Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom, then healed sickness and disease

Matthew 10:7-8

- the disciples preached the gospel of the kingdom, healed sick, cleansed lepers, raised the dead, cast out demons

Luke 10:8-9

- after the disciples healed the sick, they were to say, “the kingdom of God has come near to you”

When the Kingdom of God is at hand, it is present and to be demonstrated by healing, cleansing, raising, casting out.

No sickness, death or devils in the kingdom! That’s GOOD NEWS!

Galatians 1:3-4

- Jesus gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from this present evil age

Hebrews 6:5

- We have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come

We must rediscover the gospel powers of the age to come in the church, so we might taste more of them!

7) Intercession

praying, crying out for future, heavenly, Kingdom of God power to invade our present, hellish kingdom-of-darkness circumstances

Matthew 6:9-10, 13

- Jesus gives us instruction and permission to pray and intercede that “Your Kingdom come...”
- “...Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

**There are no lost, sick, oppressed, or possessed people in Heaven.
God’s will isn’t resisted, rejected, or restrained in Heaven.
Jesus said pray, Your Kingdom come, right here, right now, upon us, at hand.
That’s GOOD NEWS!**

Discussion Questions

1. This is the same question from last week. You’ve had a week to think about it. Is “The Gospel” the best news you have ever heard? Do you really feel that way?
2. When we are talking to a non-believer — these are some very “Christianese” words. Give a simple one-sentence definition of each. 1) Salvation 2) Sanctification 3) Justification 4) Reconciliation 5) Identification
3. What did Pastor Steve mean when he said that we are no longer “sinners” but are now “sanctified saints”?
4. Read Colossians 1:21-23. Do we sometimes stay “alienated in our minds by our wicked works” even though Jesus has reconciled us by His death?
5. We are “new creations” in Christ. How is that different than God just cleaning up our “old life”?
6. Read the definition of 6) Demonstration. Does that reposition how you actually live your life?
7. Can we identify how the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is growing in our church? Let’s pray that it does!
8. As an individual member of the Body of the Church, does my spiritual growth affect the whole?