

What is “The Gospel”?

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Grace Fellowship Church / Will Fannin / January 8, 2023

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

A Christian Will Not Have Just a Vague Understanding of the Gospel!

What sets the Christian apart is not only accurate understanding of the Gospel, but genuine, lifestyle-changing, belief in it!

I. What is “The Gospel”?

*“It is also the principal article of all Christian doctrine, wherein the knowledge of all godliness consists. Most necessary it is, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and **beat it into their heads continually.**”*

- Martin Luther (A Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, 1535)

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

1. God Created Us (Image Bearers) to Glorify Him (The Image)

Genesis 1:26-27 “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’

²⁷ So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

2. We All Have Turned From God to Glorify Ourselves

Genesis 11:4 “Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the earth.’”

3. He Bore Our Sin, All of Our Sin

2 Corinthians 5:21a “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin. . .”

God has more mercy in Him than you have sin in you.
And *He* has made the way for you to receive that mercy!

4. We Wear His Righteousness, All of His Righteousness

1 Peter 3:18a “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, *that He might bring us to God. . .*”

5. We Receive This Gift by Responding in Faith

Acts 16:30-31 “Then he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’³¹ And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

John 3:18 “Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

II. So, Now What?

2 Corinthians 5:20 “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Read Romans 8 this week, what part sticks out to you the most? Why?
2. Growing up, what came to mind when someone said “Gospel”? What needed to be clarified for you? Who do you know that needs similar clarification?
3. Will said, “Many will substitute their privilege of ambassadorship for low level feelings of comfort or belonging in this world.” Do you see yourself in this? In what ways?
4. Have you neglected your role as an ambassador of Christ towards specific people? (Family? Coworkers? Classmates? Children? Strangers?)
5. For Community Group: Practice explaining the gospel to one another! *So we can “beat it into our own heads, continually!”*