



What Is the Gospel?

Scripture

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...”
1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’” *Mark 1:14-15*

Study

The Importance of the Gospel

- According to *1 Corinthians 15:3-4*, the gospel is of first importance.
- The gospel is the center of the Bible’s theology and the climax of its story.

The Definition of the Gospel

- The gospel is:
 - the good news of Jesus Christ
 - who died for our sins and rose from the dead
 - as the fulfillment of the promised kingdom of God.

The Enemies of the Gospel

- The gospel can be rejected through either reckless rebellion or self-righteous religion.
- Religion vs. the Gospel
 - Religion is good advice. The gospel is good news.
 - Religion: “I obey, therefore God loves me.” Gospel: “He loves me, therefore I obey.”
 - Religion is about what I do. The gospel is about what God has done.
 - Religion sees Jesus as a means. The gospel sees Jesus as the end.

The Proclamation of the Gospel

- Listen before you speak.
 - Discover the root of sin and discern idols (false saviors) in a person’s life.
- Proclaim the gospel.
 - Share the gospel - preferably in the context of relationship and backed up by the way you live.
- Invite people to respond.
 - The appropriate response to the gospel is faith and repentance.

Discussion

- How might you share the gospel with people in the following situations?
 - A person who wants a relationship with God but says he or she is “not good enough for God.”
 - A person who has been sexually abused and struggles with shame.
 - A person wounded by a bad experience with a church.
- Try to share the gospel by telling the story of how you came to know Jesus.