

“What Is The Gospel?”

1. **Scripture Reading: Job 19:23-27**
2. **Display image**
3. **Opening: Neighbor nudge: “What is the Gospel?”—share in two’s or three’s for 5 minutes**

I. What Is The Gospel?

1. **Is Job 19:23-27 part of the gospel?—it certainly is because it speaks to a future physical resurrection of believers—how often do we share this part of the gospel with others?—a believer’s resurrection is most important to the Good News Jesus brought—**

2. Let me read some other verses:

(1) Display Luke 2: 10-11, “But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, He is Christ, the Lord.’

(2) Display John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son that whosoever believes in him, will not perish but have eternal life.”

(3) Display Isaiah 53:5, “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace, was upon his, and by his wounds we are healed.”

(4) Display Romans 15:3-6, “For what I received, I passed on to you as of first importance: That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve, after that he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at the same time,, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.”

(5) Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

3. These are all part of the gospel

4. **Word Gospel is from an old English word, “God Spell”, meaning “Good News”—The word used in New Testament Greek is, “euangelion”—“eu”=good and “angelion”= Message—the Gospel is God’s good news to**

the world—Good News about what?—Good News that we can have a rich and total relationship with the Almighty maker of all things for all eternity through faith in his son, Jesus—

5. But often we reduce the gospel, God’s Good News to the world, to a verse or two that we quote—and those we share with are sometimes left confused and with only partial information on which to make an eternal decision—

6. What is the whole good news? It is more than a single verse or two in the bible—it is the whole of what the bible teaches about having a relationship with God—it is both in the Old Testament and the New Testament

7. (Display the Whole Good News)--Here is the good news —the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

(1) The one and only true God, who is holy, made us in his image to know him and to love Him

(2) But we sinned and cut ourselves off from Him

(3) In His great love God became a man named Jesus, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross

(4) Thus fulfilling the Law himself by taking on himself our punishment and debt for sin of all those who would eventually turn and trust in him

(5) He rose again from the dead showing that God accepted Christ’s sacrifice and God’s wrath toward those who believed was appeased

(6) He calls us to repent our sins and trust in Christ Jesus, God’s Son and be born again into a new life, an eternal life with God, that will include a physical resurrection of our own

7. It does not have to be expressed in these exact words—find words that your peers can relate to—but we must not compromise the essence of what the whole gospel is

8. It is not about trying to convert someone, that is God’s territory, it is about what we believe in and the reason we believe—we are not the convictor, that is the Holy Spirit’s realm, we are only the messenger

II. What Does The Gospel Have To Do With Church Life?

1. Display witnessing image

2. The church is all about the dissemination of the gospel of Jesus Christ—that is the primary reason for the church’s existence

3. **Jesus' final instructions to his disciples, "You shall be my witnesses" and "Go make disciples"—that is our mission as a church—that is the mission given by Jesus to all congregations, all assemblies of Christians**
4. **All the social ministries, work for the needy, feeding of the hungry clothing of the naked visiting the imprisoned, are important ministries for God, but they all must flow from the primary mission to bring the gospel to the lost**
5. **We can meet all the temporal, earthly needs of people here and now and if we fail to meet the eternal needs of those people, we fail as a church**

III. Making The Gospel Personal Is Crucial

1. **The Gospel has two aspects—it is universal and it is personal—Display John 3:16, "God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"—**
2. **Loved the world—universal and whosoever believes in him—personal**
3. **Christ died once for all—His death paid for everyone's sin-- (Display 1 Peter 3:18, "For Christ died for sin once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body, but made alive by the Spirit.")**
4. **Even though he died for everyone's sins his death is affective only for those who believe, Display Romans 10:9-10, "That if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."**
5. **If we only share the information about the gospel to others it is only that, information, head knowledge—to make the gospel affective in opening a heart to God it also must be personally applied**

6. **1 Peter 3:15, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”**

CONCLUSION:

1. **Display Church sign Image: “You Are Now Entering the Mission Field”**
2. **If we were able I would hang this sign over every exit in this community center and at every parking lot exit—this is our training camp, out there is our mission field—our neighborhoods, schools, homes, work places, everywhere we go is our mission field—**
3. **Like Jesus, we need to build a relationship with others before we can really share the whole good news –Jesus spent three years building relationships and sharing his good news with those he came in contact with—did they all believe? No!—many walked away because they did not hear what they wanted—Jesus did not try to force them to believe nor did he stop sharing—Then, like today the Holy Spirit was the converter**
4. **(Display cartoon of the three crosses)**
5. **The next several weeks we are going to sharpen our witnessing tools—we’ll look at Paul’s testimony in Acts and create our own—we’ll look at different styles of witnessing to others—look at making our witnessing language less “insider” and more “world” friendly and we’ll look at some other things we can do in sharing our faith with others**
6. **Remember the church is not a field of dreams—it is not “build it and they will come”, rather it is “go and bring them in”**