

God - Man - Christ - Response

"The gospel is the good news about what God has done to save sinners through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ." - Bobby Jamieson

God - The Righteous Creator. **He is loving, holy, and just. He is both our holy Creator and righteous Judge. The Bible reveals that one day he will execute perfect justice against all sin.

Man – But man sinned. He is the Sinner. **While people are made in the image of God as the pinnacle of God's creation - beautiful and amazing creatures - full of dignity, worth, and value, God's purpose was that we were made to display God's image throughout the earth. He created us to glorify him and enjoy him forever.

But through our willful, sinful rebellion against God that began with Adam and Eve, we have each turned from being his children to his enemies. This rebellion deserves God's punishment, and since we've sinned against the infinite and holy God, the punishment is eternal.

This much, by itself, would be Bad News; really, really bad news! And it is why we need something more. All the other religions of the world don't get any further than this: God demands that we live morally, and we struggle to do so. He give rules and laws that must be lived by, and we are to strive to follow them. But we know... in the depths of our heart, we know... that we can never live up to His standard and so come under the wrath of God's judgment. And this is Bad News.

But the Gospel doesn't end there, which is why we can call it Good News. The Good News is that God has done what mankind could not.

Christ - The Savior** The Son of God, with his sinless life gave him the ability to become the perfect sacrifice. Through his death on the cross, he ransoms sinful people. Christ's death pays for the sins of all who come to him in faith. Christ's resurrection from the dead is the ultimate vindication (verification) of the truth of these claims.

This is Good News! God has made a way for people to not be left to their sins and subject to His right judgment. But this is news you can't just hear or see and that is sufficient, like what you read in the paper, or watch on the news. This news demands a response. The Good news is that God has provided a means of escape... But we must take hold of it because, "The gospel is the joyful message from God that leads us to salvation." (Evangelism, Stiles, 33)

Response - Repentance and Faith. ** All people have the capacity to be in a restored loving relationship with the living God. God requires that we respond to this message by acknowledging our sin, repenting, and believing in Christ. So we turn from sin, especially the sin of unbelief, and turn to God in faith, with the understanding that we will follow him the rest of our days.

In summary, the simple 4-point outline of the gospel is: God – Man – Christ – Response.

(Above outline taken from Evangelism, Stiles, 34.)

(** Taken from God's Good News, Chapter Titles, Bobby Jamieson)

Biblical Expressions of the Gospel

Romans 10:8-17 ESV

[8] But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); [9] because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. [11] For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” [12] For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. [13] For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” [14] How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? [15] And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” [16] But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” [17] So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-10 ESV

[1] And you were dead in the trespasses and sins [2] in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—[3] among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. [4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—[6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 ESV

[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] 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.

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

[5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.