

*GraceLife Church Presents . . .*

---

# Soteriology

The Purpose,  
Accomplishment, Plan, and  
Application of Redemption

---

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Conversion

- ❖ We've been talking about the doctrine of conversion.
- ❖ Conversion is turning.
- ❖ Conversion is a change of life involving our entire heart (mind, affection, will) in which we trust in Christ and turn away from sin.
- ❖ Conversion encompasses repentance and faith.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Conversion

“Conversion is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 307.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

- ❖ Faith is the instrument (means) of salvation.
- ❖ Grace is the ultimate cause (objectively and subjectively).
- ❖ Faith is our response to the gospel.
- ❖ Faith is the result of regeneration.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

- ❖ Faith involves our entire person (mind, affections, will).
- ❖ Faith involves more than mere knowledge but we must *know* something before we can believe it.
- ❖ Faith also involves a connection to that knowledge.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

- ❖ Faith also involves a connection to the knowledge we have.
- ❖ This 'connection' is sometimes referred to as . . .
  - ❖ Approval
  - ❖ Assent
  - ❖ Conviction
  - ❖ Belief
  - ❖ *Assensus*

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

- ❖ To say that faith involves assent is more than saying that we agree that the knowledge we have is true.
- ❖ The word conviction is probably closest to what we mean here.
- ❖ John Murray: Correspondence between our need and Christ's offer in the gospel (interest in these things).

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

“The conviction which enters into faith is not only an assent to the truth respecting Christ but also a recognition of the exact correspondence that there is between the truth of Christ and our deeds as lost sinners. . . This is just saying that Christ’s sufficiency as Savior meets the desperateness and hopelessness of our sin and misery. It is the conviction which engages, therefore, our greatest interest and which registers the verdict: Christ is exactly suited to all that I am in my sin and misery and to all that I should aspire to be by God’s grace. Christ fits in perfectly to the totality of our situation in its sin, guilt, misery, and ill-desert.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 116.



---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

- ❖ Finally faith involves a personal commitment to Christ.
- ❖ Faith does not simply believe propositional statements but trusts a person. It connects us with Christ.
- ❖ This is called the 'volitional element,' 'trust,' 'personal trust,' *fiducia*.
- ❖ In, on, dependence, reliance, embracing; receiving, coming, following; believing.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

“Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 308.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

*“Saving faith may be defined as a certain conviction, wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, as to the truth of the gospel, and a hearty reliance (trust) on the promises of God in Christ.”*

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 503.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

“Now we shall possess a right definition of faith if we call it a firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. John T. McNeill, 551 (III.ii.7.).

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

“It is to be remembered that the efficacy of faith does not reside in itself. Faith is not something that merits the favor of God. All the efficacy unto salvation resides in the Savior. As one has aptly and truly stated the case, it is not faith that saves but faith in Jesus Christ; strictly speaking, it is not even faith in Christ that saves but Christ saves through faith. Faith unites us to Christ in the bonds of abiding attachment and entrustment and it is this union which insures that the saving power, grace, and virtue of the Savior become operative in the believer. The specific character of faith is that it looks away from itself and finds its whole interest and object in Christ. He is the absorbing preoccupation of faith.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 117–18.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

- ❖ Question:
- ❖ How much knowledge is required to have genuine saving faith?

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

“It is impossible to determine with precision just how much knowledge is absolutely required in saving faith. If saving faith is the acceptance of Christ as He is offered in the gospel, the question arises, How much of the gospel must a man know, in order to be saved? Or, to put it in the words of Dr. Machen: “What, to put it baldly, are the minimum doctrinal requirements, in order that a man may be a Christian?” In general it may be said that it must be sufficient to give the believer some idea of the object of faith.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 504.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

- ❖ If faith is knowledge, conviction, trust then we can go beyond Berkof's 'in general . . . it sufficient to give the believer some idea of the object of faith.'
- ❖ There must be enough knowledge to create the conviction necessary to bring someone to trust in Christ.
- ❖ A person must know their need and Christ's answer.



---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Faith

“We must know who Christ is, what he has done, and what he is able to do. Otherwise faith would be blind conjecture at the best and foolish mockery at the worst.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 116.

# Excursus: The Gospel

---

# The Gospel

---

## Introduction

- ❖ Gospel means 'good news.'
- ❖ The good news is the news about salvation through Christ.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Introduction

- ❖ The good news about salvation through Christ.
- ❖ Questions:
  - ❖ What is salvation?
  - ❖ Salvation from what?
  - ❖ Why is it good news?
  - ❖ Why is it necessary?
  - ❖ Who is Jesus Christ?
  - ❖ How does one receive this salvation?

---

# The Gospel

---

## Introduction

- ❖ When we explain the gospel to someone there is a certain truths that we must cover in order to faithfully present it.
- ❖ These truths will answer the questions about the good news, show one their need of salvation, and Christ's answer to that need.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Introduction

“How firm a grasp do you think most Christians really have on the content of the Christian gospel?

How would you answer if someone asked you: What is this news that you Christians go on and on about? And what’s so good about it?”

Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*, 15.

---

# The Application of Redemption

---

## Introduction

**Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Introduction

“First, Paul tells his readers that it is God to whom they are accountable. . . . Second, Paul tells his readers that their problem is that they rebelled against God. . . . Third, Paul says that God’s solution to humanity’s sin is the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. . . . Finally, Paul tells his readers how they themselves can be included in this salvation.

Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*, 28–31.



---

# The Gospel

---

## Introduction

- ❖ These truths can be easily remembered under 4 headings.
  - ❖ God
  - ❖ Man
  - ❖ Christ
  - ❖ Sinners

---

# The Gospel

---

## God

- ❖ The gospel begins and ends with God.

---

# The Gospel

---

God

“Who made us, and to whom are we  
accountable?”

Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*, 28–31.

---

# The Gospel

---

## God

*Created and Owns Everything*

**Gen 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

---

# The Gospel

---

## God

*Created and Owns Everything*

**Ps 24:1** The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.

---

# The Gospel

---

## God

*Created and Owns Everything*

“We did not create ourselves, and we are neither self-reliant nor self-accountable. No, it is God who created the world and everything in it, including us. Because he created us, God has the right to demand that we worship him.

Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*, 28.

---

# The Gospel

---

## God

*Is Perfectly Holy*

- ❖ Majesty Holiness
- ❖ Moral Purity

---

# The Gospel

---

## God

*Is Perfectly Holy*

**1 John 1:5** This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.



---

# The Gospel

---

God

*Is Perfectly Holy*

**Matt 5:48** Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (cf. Lev 11:44–45, 19:2).

---

# The Gospel

---

## God

*Requires Perfect Obedience to His Law*

**Jas 2:10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all. **11** For He who said, “DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,” also said, “DO NOT COMMIT MURDER.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

---

# The Gospel

---

## God

### *Conclusion*

- ❖ God is our creator (Gen 1:1; Ps 24:1).
- ❖ God is holy (1 John 1:5; Lev 11:44–45; 19:2).
- ❖ God requires perfect obedience to his law (Jas 2:10).

---

# The Gospel

---

## Man

- ❖ The gospel is good news *to* man even though it is not ultimately *for* man.
- ❖ Man cannot have a relationship with a holy God who requires perfect obedience.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Man

*Has Broken God's Law*

**Rom 3:10** as it is written,

“THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

**Rom 3:11** THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

**Rom 3:12** ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;

THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,

THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

---

# The Gospel

---

## Man

*Has Broken God's Law*

**Rom 3:21** But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22** even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

---

# The Gospel

---

**Man**

*Will Pay the Eternal Penalty for Sin*

**Rom 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Man

*Cannot Save Himself by His Good Works*

**Isa 64:6** For all of us have become like one who is unclean,  
And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;  
And all of us wither like a leaf,  
And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.



---

# The Gospel

---

## Man

*Cannot Save Himself by His Good Works*

**Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

---

# The Gospel

---

## Man

*Cannot Save Himself by His Good Works*

**Eph 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Man

### *Conclusion*

- ❖ Has broken God's law (Rom 3:10, 23).
- ❖ Will pay the penalty of eternal death (Rom 6:23).
- ❖ Cannot save himself by his good works (Titus 3:5; cf. Isa 64:6; Eph 2:8–9).

---

# The Gospel

---

## Christ

- ❖ God is a holy judge and we are accountable to him.
- ❖ Man has sinned, must pay the penalty for sin, and is unable to save himself.
- ❖ Jesus Christ is God's solution to man's problem.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Christ

*Came to Earth as both God and Sinless Man*

**Col 2:9** For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Christ

*Demonstrated God's Love by Dying on the Cross to Pay Sin's Penalty*

**2 Cor 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Christ

*Demonstrated God's Love by Dying on the Cross to Pay Sin's Penalty*

**Rom 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Christ

*Demonstrated God's Love by Dying on the Cross to Pay Sin's Penalty*

**1 Pet 2:22** WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; **23** and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; **24** and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.



---

# The Gospel

---

## Christ

*Demonstrated God's Love by Dying on the Cross to Pay Sin's Penalty*

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Christ

*Rose from the Grave and is Alive Today*

**1 Cor 15:4** And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Christ

### *Conclusion*

- ❖ Came to earth as both God and sinless man (Col 2:9).
- ❖ Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty (Rom 5:8; 2 Cor 5:21).
- ❖ Rose from the grave and is alive today (1 Cor 15:4).

---

# The Gospel

---

## Sinners

- ❖ The gospel is good news but we must respond to it in order for it to be good news *for us*.
- ❖ We must call, beg, urge, command, and ask for a response when we proclaim the gospel.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Sinners

*Must Repent of All that Dishonors God*

**Isa 55:6** Seek the LORD while He may be found;  
Call upon Him while He is near.

**Isa 55:7** Let the wicked forsake his way  
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
And let him return to the LORD,  
And He will have compassion on him,  
And to our God,  
For He will abundantly pardon.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Sinners

*Must Repent of All that Dishonors God*

**Luke 9:23** . . . If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Sinners

*Will you Repent and Believe in Christ?*

**John 3:36** “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

---

# The Gospel

---

## Sinners

*Will you Repent and Believe in Christ?*

**Acts 17:30** Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent. **Acts 17:31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”



---

# The Gospel

---

## Sinners

*Will you Repent and Believe in Christ?*

**Acts 16:31** They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

---

# The Gospel

---

## Sinners

### *Conclusion*

- ❖ Must repent of all that dishonours God (Isa 55:7; Luke 9:23).
- ❖ Must believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour (Rom 10:9)
- ❖ Will you repent and believe?(Acts 17:30)

---

# The Gospel

---

## Conclusion

- ❖ We are still not able to determine the minimum amount of gospel knowledge required for salvation.
- ❖ A sinner must know that (1) they are accountable to God, (2) they have fallen short of his standard, (3) Christ is the solution, (4) how to respond to that message.

---

# The Gospel

---

## Conclusion

- ❖ The nature of true faith ensures that those who have it will continue to believe the word of God as they come to understand it.

---

# The Gospel

---

## God

### *Conclusion*

- ❖ God is our creator (Gen 1:1; Ps 24:1).
- ❖ God is holy (1 John 1:5; Lev 11:44–45; 19:2).
- ❖ God requires perfect obedience to his law (Jas 2:10).

---

# The Gospel

---

## Man

### *Conclusion*

- ❖ Has broken God's law (Rom 3:10, 23).
- ❖ Will pay the penalty of eternal death (Rom 6:23).
- ❖ Cannot save himself by his good works (Titus 3:5; cf. Isa 64:6; Eph 2:8–9).

---

# The Gospel

---

## Christ

### *Conclusion*

- ❖ Came to earth as both God and sinless man (Col 2:9).
- ❖ Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty (Rom 5:8; 2 Cor 5:21).
- ❖ Rose from the grave and is alive today (1 Cor 15:4).

---

# The Gospel

---

## Sinners

### *Conclusion*

- ❖ Must repent of all that dishonours God (Isa 55:7; Luke 9:23).
- ❖ Must believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour (Rom 10:9)
- ❖ Will you repent and believe? (Acts 17:30)



