



# **Defending Doctrinal Distinctives The Gospel of Repentance and Faith (Part 2)**

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“I waited patiently for the LORD;  
And He inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He brought me up out of the pit of destruction,  
out of the miry clay,  
And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.  
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;  
Many will see and fear And will trust in the LORD.”  
(Psalms 40:1-3, NAS95)

“I sought the LORD, and He answered me,  
And delivered me from all my fears.  
They looked to Him and were radiant,  
And their faces will never be ashamed.  
This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him  
And saved him out of all his troubles.”

(Psalms 34:4-6, NAS95)

“The LORD is my strength and song,  
And He has become my salvation.”

(Psalms 118:14, NAS95)

“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,  
My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”  
“He brought me forth also into a broad place;  
He rescued me, because He delighted in me.”  
(Psalms 18:2, 19, NAS95)

“Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from Your presence  
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation  
And sustain me with a willing spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
And sinners will be converted to You.”

(Psalms 51:10-13, NAS95)

“Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;  
Let those who love Your salvation say continually,  
“Yahweh be magnified!””

(Psalms 40:16, LSB)

# Lesson(s) Outline

- Topic Review
- Week 1 (last session):
  - Foundations: What is the Gospel?
  - Repentance & Faith: Receiving the Gospel
  - Repentance & Faith: Living the Gospel
  - Q&A
- Week 2 (today):
  - Essentials of the Gospel
  - Repentance & Faith: Assurance in the Gospel
  - Contending for the Faith: The True Gospel
  - Questions and Application
  - Worship

# What is the Gospel?

*(Short Version 1)*

““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.”

(Jesus, John 3:16, LSB)

# What is the Gospel?

*(Short Version 2)*

“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that He might bring you to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;”

(1 Peter 3:18, LSB)

# What is the Gospel?

*(Short Version 3)*

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

(Jesus, John 5:24, LSB)

# What is the Gospel?

*('Medium' Version)*

“Now I make known to you, brothers, the gospel which I proclaimed as good news to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I proclaimed to you as good news, unless you believed for nothing. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

(1 Corinthians 15:1-4, LSB)

## What is the Gospel?

The *God-centered* gospel presentation emphasizes *God's glory* and *man's sinfulness*.

- A. The God-centered message proclaims *God's holiness*.
- B. The God-centered message reveals *man's sinful condition*.
- C. The God-centered message declares *Christ as Savior and Lord*.
- D. The God-centered message calls *sinner to repent and believe in Christ*.



# The Gospel: God

## GOD

- Created and owns everything: Genesis 1:1, Psalm 24:1
- Is perfectly holy: 1 John 1:5, Matthew 5:48
- Demands perfect obedience to His law: James 2:10



# The Gospel: Man

## Man

- Has broken God's law: Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, Isaiah 59:1-2
- Will pay the eternal penalty for sin: Romans 6:23.
- Cannot save himself by his good works: Titus 3:5, Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:8-9.



# The Gospel: Christ

## CHRIST

- Came to earth as both God and sinless man, Colossians 2:9.
- Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty: Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 3:16, 1 Peter 2:24
- Rose from the grave and is alive today: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4



# The Gospel: Sinners

## Sinners

- Must repent of all that dishonors God: Isaiah 55:7, Luke 9:23
- Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior. Romans 10:9-10
- Will you repent and believe in Christ? Acts 17:30



# Repentance

“and He [Jesus] said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that **repentance for forgiveness of sins** would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

(Luke 24:46-47, LSB, with emphasis)

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some consider slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

(2 Peter 3:9, LSB)

# Repentance

““Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now commanding men that everyone everywhere should repent,”  
(Acts 17:30, LSB)

“Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,”  
(Hebrews 6:1, LSB)

# Faith

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.”

(Hebrews 11:1, LSB)

Faith is utter and exclusive reliance  
on the finished work of Christ for salvation,  
and absolute assurance in it.

# Preparing for Gospel Conversations

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word...

Let your words always be with grace, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should answer each person.”

(Colossians 4:2-3a, 6, LSB)

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear,”

(1 Peter 3:15, LSB)

# Repentance & Faith: Assurance in the Gospel

““So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.”

(Luke 14:33, LSB)

“And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

(Luke 9:23, LSB)

# Repentance & Faith: Assurance in the Gospel

“And the witness is this, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have that life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know that you have eternal life.**”

(1 John 5:11-13, LSB, with emphasis)

*There is a tension between assurance and examination.*

# Repentance & Faith: Assurance in the Gospel

**“Test yourselves** to see if you are in the faith; **examine yourselves!** Or do you not recognize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?”

(2 Corinthians 13:5, LSB, with emphasis)

**“But a man must test himself,** and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

**“But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.”**

(1 Corinthians 11:28, 32, LSB, with emphasis)

# Contending for the Faith: The True Gospel

“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you exhorting that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.”

(Jude 1:3, LSB)

*We must contend.*

*We must not be contentious (2 Timothy 2:24-26).*

## Contending for the Faith: False 'Gospels'

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to the gospel we have proclaimed to you, let him be accursed!”

(Galatians 1:8, LSB)

“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”

(2 Corinthians 11:13-15, LSB)

# Contending for the Faith: False 'Gospels'

'Easy Believism' vs. Lordship Salvation

Sacramentalism: Forms of believing salvation can come  
- at least in part - from human tradition (e.g. Mark 7:7).

Cults: Professing a Different Christ (e.g. 1 John 4:1-6)

*It's all about the nature of Christ and the Gospel.*

*Anything that obscures or adds to these is to be avoided.*

# Q&A

- Can you lose your salvation (see Hebrews 6:6)?
- Is the exclusivity of Christ (e.g. Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:6, Acts 4:12) fair?
- Is the doctrine of hell (e.g. Matthew 13:41-42) unloving?
- What is the difference between justification and sanctification? (See Romans 8:1-4)

# Recommended Resources

