

The Joy-Driven God-Centered Life
Session 8: A Joy-Driven God-Centered Gospel

What is our mission? To inspire among all peoples an overflowing joy in God through Jesus Christ

What is the Gospel? The Gospel is the Good News that though all are sinners under the wrath of God, Jesus Christ died in our place, removing God's condemnation from all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus' death and resurrection, bringing reconciliation with God.

What are the essential elements of the Gospel? (See Summary of "Two Ways to Live")

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| 1. <u>God</u> (Rev. 4:11) | 2. <u>Sin</u> (Rom. 3:10-12) | 3. <u>Judgment</u> (Heb. 9:27) |
| 4. <u>Jesus</u> (1 Pet. 3:18) | 5. <u>Resurrection</u> (1 Pet. 1:3) | 6. <u>Response</u> (John 3:36) |

Why is it good news that you now stand righteous before God?

The Gospel tells us the way to God.

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he *might bring us to God...*"
(1 Peter 3:18)

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and *might reconcile us both to God* in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.... ¹⁸ For through him we both *have access in one Spirit to the Father*.
(Ephesians 2:13-18)

^{3:16} For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life... ^{17:13} And this is eternal life, that they *know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ* whom you have sent.
(John 3:16, 17:3)

¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we *were reconciled to God* by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we *have now received reconciliation*.
(Romans 5:10-11)

The Gospel shows us the glory of God.

⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:4-6)

What is Satan doing? (v.4)

What is God doing? (v.6)

What's the difference between seeing "mere news" and seeing the *light* of that news?

The Gospel is designed to magnify God's glory.

Predestination: God chose us for salvation for His praise and glory.

⁵ He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace... (Ephesians.1:5-6)

Incarnation: God sent Jesus in the flesh for His praise and glory.

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. (Romans 15:8-9)

Propitiation: The sacrifice of Jesus was for God's praise and glory.

...whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (Romans 3:25)

Sanctification: God is making us like Christ for His praise and glory.

⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

Consummation: Jesus will one day return for His praise and glory.

...when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. (2 Thess. 1:10)