

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is Good News

It is good news that people who have been estranged from God by their sins can be reconciled to God by faith in Jesus. Jesus bore the wrath of God against sin when he died on the cross as our perfect substitute. His perfect righteousness is given to those who turn from their sin and believe in the resurrected Jesus. Repentance and Belief bring salvation and healing...salvation brings new life! This is the best possible news for those longing to know God and to find freedom from their sin by God's supernatural work in their lives.

Galatians 1:11: "Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning."

Romans 1:16-17: "For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile ¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

The Gospel Starts with God

God was there in the beginning. He is the creator of all we see and all that we cannot see. It is His purpose of every human being is to know God, to love God, and to rely on God. God has revealed himself in creation, by his image that is built into each of us, through his words in the Bible, and most perfectly in the life of Jesus. The starting point of faith is to acknowledge the existence of God, knowing that those who seek Him will find Him.

Colossians 1:15-17: "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."

Hebrews 11:1, 3, 6: "¹ Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. ³ By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen. ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

The Gospel is the Antidote to Sin

At its core, sin is missing the mark of God's perfect rightness by walking in independence from God. Sin began when the first created people chose to follow their own hearts instead of yielding to what God had said. While Jesus lived a perfect life without sin, none of us escapes a sin nature that leads us to spiritual death. When we are honest with ourselves, we all know that we have violated the goodness of God. We all sense that something is not right and the need for genuine forgiveness and hope. The Bible is very clear that every person is trapped in sin and in a desperate condition without God. Sin leads to eternal separation from God, but the Gospel provides the only antidote to our sins.

Galatians 3:22: "But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ."

Romans 6:23: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

The Gospel is Salvation from Sin is by Grace through Faith Alone

Religious systems wrongly teach that people can somehow reach God by their own efforts...the Gospel tells a radically different story. Salvation from sin and restoration with a holy God is the result of His grace. Turning from our sin in genuine belief in the risen Savior, Jesus, is the only way to salvation from our sins. Salvation from sin is entirely based on God's grace. The Bible describes this as a spiritual rebirth that results in the hope of eternal life...something that begins on the day a person believes. Salvation is a free gift from God to those who believe.

Titus 3:4-7: *“But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, ⁵ he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. ⁶ He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁷ Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.”*

The Gospel Brings Hope of Eternal Life

It is natural for a person without God to feel a sense that something is terribly wrong, that there is something missing from their lives. In quiet moments it is normal for all of us to wonder what comes after this life is over. Fortunately, God in his goodness has revealed Himself to us in the pages of the Bible. A great starting place to discover the Gospel is by reading the Gospel according to John. This short book is dedicated to revealing Jesus to us...and Jesus is God in the flesh...the one who reveals God in perfect clarity. In about 15 minutes a day, a person can read a chapter of the Gospel of John in just 3 weeks. Reading with simple questions in mind will help anyone discover the Gospel: Who is Jesus and why did he come?

John 3:16 *“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”*

Romans 5:1 *“Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.”*

The Gospel is Received by Faith

When the Holy Spirit opens the spiritual understanding of sin and the need for salvation it brings a person to turn from sin and to God in Faith. This is not blind faith, but faith in the resurrected Jesus. Genuine faith is expressed to God in prayer.

Romans 10:9-13: *“if you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” ¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”*

The Gospel Brings Freedom by the Power of the Holy Spirit

Salvation brings freedom. No one is ever saved by keeping the 10 commandments, but anyone can be free by faith in Jesus. Christians experience the presence of the Holy Spirit and freedom from the power of sin. No matter your past, there is genuine forgiveness and freedom in Christ.

Romans 8:1-4: *“So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So, God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.*

The Gospel and Lighthouse Community

Lighthouse Community exists to help people know God, love God, and rely on God. This is the life you were meant to live. We exist to help people say Yes to Jesus.

What is an appropriate response to understanding the Gospel?

1. Recognize that I have sin in my life that separates me from God
2. Understand what the Bible says about Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus
3. Turn from my sin and to God for forgiveness and new life (repentance is a decision)
4. Baptism to identify with Christ as I begin walking in new life

A starting point for many is to read the Gospel by John. John’s gospel is a short account of the life of Jesus that points to his true identity and why he came to this world. Another good beginning point is reading the gospel of Mark (another account of the life of Jesus) followed by a reading of Romans.

Lighthouse Classes

Watch for classes designed for you

- **Next:** Welcome to Lighthouse hosted by leaders of the church
- **What is the Gospel:** What does it mean to say Yes to Jesus?
- **How to Read the Bible:** Simple help to explore faith from God’s Word
- **How to Pray:** Authentic communication with God
- **How to Find Community:** Easy on ramps to connecting with the church family