

1. JESUS

—The Gospel

When Jesus began his public ministry, he went into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God: “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the gospel!” (Mark 1:17) Later, Jesus commissioned his disciples to proclaim the same message. (Matthew 10:1-15)

Similarly, we see the Apostle Paul declaring: “I do not account my life of any value, nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course...that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:24). He gave his life to the proclamation of the gospel of God’s grace.

Our English term *gospel* comes from the Greek word *euangelion*, which means “good news” or, “the best possible news!” In first century Greek culture, the *euangelion* might be the birth of a royal heir or a great battle victory. It was news that was so good it prompted contagious laughter, joy, and festivity. According to the New Testament, the gospel of God is the most important news anyone will ever hear. There are many important ideas associated with the gospel of God. We have listed a few:

Salvation & Justification by Grace through Faith - *What do you learn about salvation, justification, grace and faith from the following verses? Are there any new insights that stand out to you?*

Isaiah 49:6 (Acts 13:46-47)

John 3:16-17

Acts 4:10-12

Romans 3:19-26

Romans 5:8, 6:23

I Corinthians 15:1-4

Ephesians 2:8-9

Titus 3:5

Repentance, Confession & Forgiveness - *What is the role of repentance and confession in our salvation? How significant is the forgiveness we can experience? How should it affect us?*

Mark 1:14-15

Luke 7:46-49

Luke 24:46-47

Acts 26:18

Romans 4:6-8

Romans 10:9-10

I John 1:9

Assurance & Identity - *Can we be assured of our salvation, and if so how can we know? What identities can we embrace as a result of our faith? How can a change in identity affect us?*

John 1:12

John 5:24

I Corinthians 1:2

I John 3:1-2

I Peter 2:9-10

I John 5:11-13

APPLICATION: One practical way to be transformed by the gospel is to preach it yourself daily by meditating on key gospel passages. Begin with the verses in this study. Additionally you may want to write a letter to God in your journal where you express your appreciation for the good news of forgiveness, acceptance and inheritance you have in Christ.