

## The Gospel of God By Trey Sullins

What kind of things make you excited in life? We all have different hobbies and interests which make us happy. If you were to make a list of all your greatest interests, what would be on that list? When you scan back through that list, does studying the Bible appear anywhere on that list? The Bible is something for which we ought to have a great excitement. You really start to see that excitement when you study the parts that make up the gospel. In Romans chapter one there are several characteristics given that make up the gospel. It is important for us to know what makes the gospel so great and then to live according to its instruction.

The message of the gospel is one of great promise. In Romans 1:1-3 the Bible explains how it is a message that was promised in times past. The text says, “separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures.” The wording here indicates that the gospel was announced beforehand by the prophesying of the Old Testament. The gospel not only comes by the promise of God, but it brings future promises of God. The gospel promises the blessings of God (Ephesians 1:3), justification from God (Romans 3:24), and the hope of salvation (Ephesians 2:8), and so much more. The gospel offers these great promises unto us today so long as we are faithful and obedient to Him.

Romans 1:3-4 shows us that there is one main person of the gospel. Paul wrote that this gospel was “concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” When you study the gospel from beginning to end you find that Jesus Christ is the central theme and character behind all of God’s revelation. Even further than that, when you study the Old Testament you find that it was all pointing forward in time to when Jesus would come. Consider Genesis 3:15 “He shall bruise your head” and Genesis 22:18 “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed” are just two examples of the Old Testament pointing forward to Christ. The Bible has a huge focus on Christ; therefore, we should be like the Bible and focus ourselves on Him as well.

The purpose of the gospel is seen in Romans 1:5. Paul explains that through Jesus “we have received grace... for obedience to the faith. A more literal translation of this would be that we have received grace into obedience to the faith. Jesus came to this world to bring the grace of God. This grace is the word of God, the gospel (Titus 2:11). The gospel then in turn brings us to be obedient to the system of faith which God has brought to man so that we might have salvation! All of this is done so that God might be glorified. Our response must be to fulfill this purpose and live according to the way which the gospel prescribes.

Romans chapter one reveals to us the power of the gospel. Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation.” Its power is seen in the fact that it can bring anyone to salvation. It does not matter where you came from or what your background is, the gospel can save us all! This great power is within the gospel because the gospel reveals the “righteousness of God.” Though it is available to all, the salvation offered by the gospel is not automatically applied to all. The gospel teaches us that we must have faith and obedience in Him in order to have that salvation. Let us all live accordingly so the salvation of the gospel can be ours!

The gospel has so many amazing qualities. It comes by many promises from God and brings many promises to us. It shows us the central person and purpose of God's plan. It also allows us to understand and be changed by the power of God. With all these wonderful traits it is easy to see how important the word of God should be to us. We must choose to dedicate ourselves to the way defined by God's word.