

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word “gospel” means **good news**.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is first bad news about **you** and then good news about what God has done **for you**.

- All have sinned. ROMANS 3:23; 3:10-18
- The penalty of sin is death. ROMANS 6:23a
- Christ died on the cross for your sins and rose from the dead.  
ROMANS 5:8, 6:23b
- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.  
ROMANS 10:9-10

A **creed** embraced by the early church and recorded in First Corinthians 15:3-4 summarizes the **facts** of the gospel:

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

Biblical salvation is ...

- By **grace alone**
- Through **faith alone**

- In **Christ alone**

See also John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 4:12; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

## **What Does the Gospel Mean?**

The New Testament speaks of salvation in three tenses: **past**, **present**, and **future**.

1. You **have been** saved. [**Justification**]

*For by grace you have been saved through faith ... Ephesians 2:8*

*For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Romans 3:28*

Justification is the **act of God** whereby he **declares** the guilty sinner **righteous**.

Justification is **positional**.

*For all ... are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 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 3:24-25*

“Redemption” = Deliverance from sin based on a **price paid**.

“Propitiation” = God is **satisfied** with the payment that was made for our redemption. 1 JOHN 2:2

2. You **are being** saved. [**Sanctification**]

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18*

*We are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 2 Corinthians 2:15*

Sanctification is the process whereby the believer is **set apart** to God and from sin.

Sanctification is **progressive**.

See also John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2

3. You **will be** saved. [**Glorification**]

*Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Romans 5:9*

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Romans 8:29-30*

### **Salvation Summary**

- Justification = delivered from the **penalty** of sin.
- Sanctification = delivered from the **power** of sin.
- Glorification = delivered from the **presence** of sin.

Starting Point: A Disciple's First Steps

ANSWERS TO FILL-INS: good news, you, for you, creed, facts, grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, past, present, future, have been, justification, act of God, declares, righteous, positional, price paid, propitiation, are being, sanctification, set apart, progressive, will be, glorification, penalty, power, presence

## Starting Point: A Disciple's First Steps

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