

THE GOSPEL

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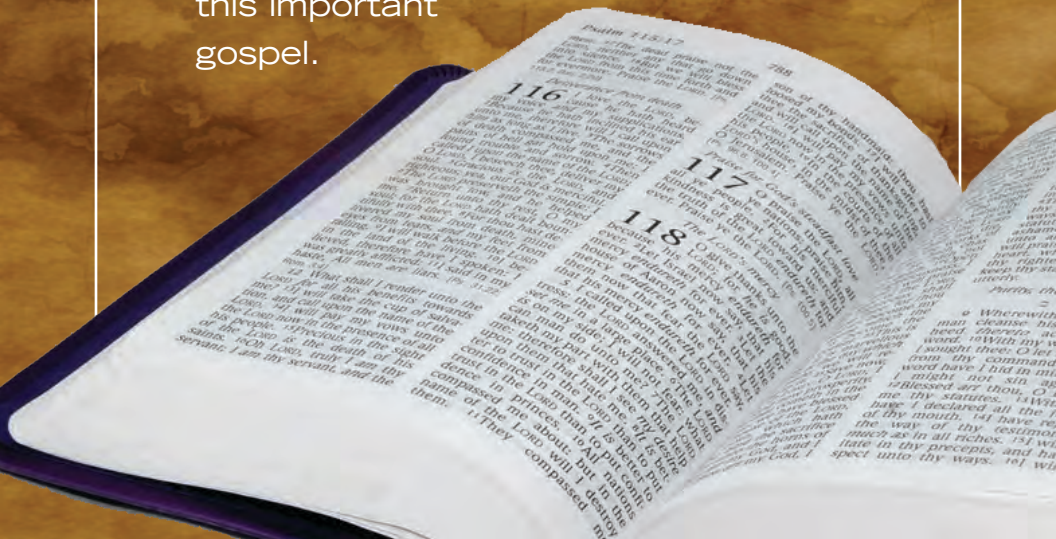
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This book is dedicated to all who are
searching for the truth.

THE GOSPEL

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. It continues to sell more copies each year than any other book. Why is it so popular? The Bible is more than just a historical document. It is writing inspired by the Creator, a message to the created. What is this message? The message can be described in one word: gospel. The gospel is the good news that God saves sinners through Christ.

Let's define some of these terms to help you better understand this important gospel.



WHO IS GOD?

God is the Supreme Being who created human-kind. He is above all and yet near and personal. God is good and loving.

God is self-existent. He is complete within himself and is in need of nothing. God is infinite. In regards to time and space we call him eternal and omnipresent (present everywhere simultaneously). God does not change. Since God is perfect, he cannot get better or worse. God has no origin, so he has always been what he is and always will be.

God is spirit ([John 4: 24](#)) and does not have a physical body. Therefore, he is invisible to us. He has vast knowledge and wisdom; He knows everything. He has no need to learn anything.



God is all powerful. He rules over all and is able to do all things by his power. He also has glory. His glory may be thought of as a brilliant light that shines out from all his attributes.

Lastly God is holy. His wrath is holy anger against sin (see definition below). As a just judge, he must therefore punish sin. Either the one who sins must pay the penalty or it must be removed somehow.

HOW IS SIN DEFINED?

Sin is man's nature now. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Upon their act of disobedience, sin came into the world. Sin can be defined as self-will, rebellion against God, law-breaking, inner-corruption, or disobedience. One person described it as:

**“An organic network
of compulsive thoughts,
attitudes, and
behaviors that lead us
away from God”**

(Rick Downs)

Pride and disbelief are the root sins from which all others flow.



Who is a sinner?

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden ([Genesis 3](#)) we are all born with sin; therefore, all are sinners ([Romans 3: 23](#)). This sin corrupts our moral and spiritual values. In our natural selves, we are without the ability or power to believe God or His word ([John 6: 44](#), [Romans 8: 7-8](#)).

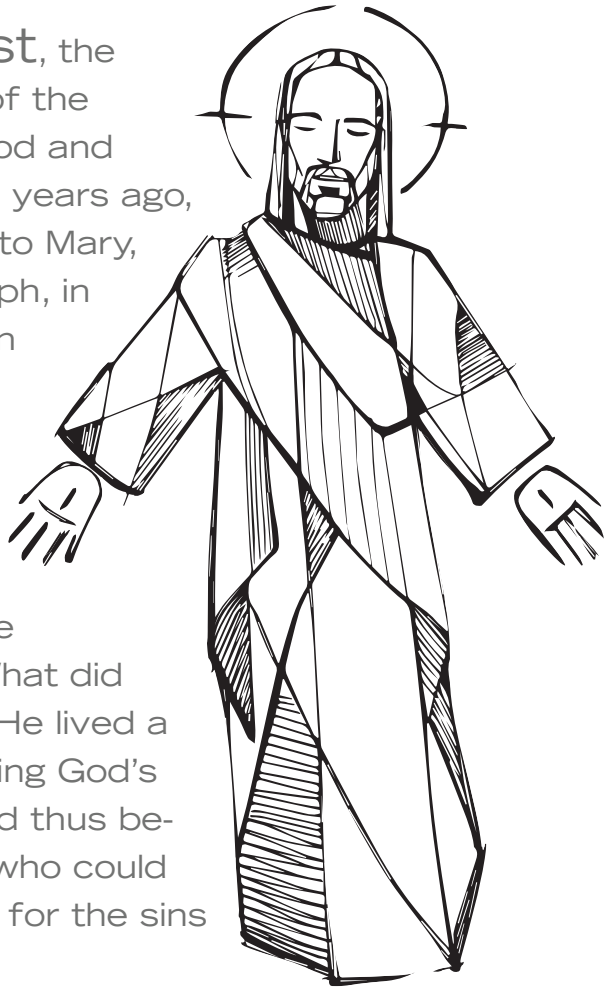
What are the consequences of sin?

In our earthly lives, sin separates us from God, or alienates us from him ([Isaiah 59: 2](#)). Because of sin, physical and spiritual death came ([Romans 6: 23](#)). Until we believe God and his way of salvation we remain in spiritual death- “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins” ([Ephesians 2: 1](#)). What do we mean by ultimate spiritual death? In the final analysis, if we physically die without having believed in the gospel, we will be separated from God in hell ([2 Thessalonians 1: 8](#)).

Fortunately, God provided a way out of this dilemma.

WHO IS CHRIST AND WHY DID HE COME?

Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, is both God and man. Over 2000 years ago, Jesus was born to Mary, the wife of Joseph, in Nazareth, a town in Israel. Since he was born of a virgin with God as His father, he did not inherit sin like the rest of us. What did he accomplish? He lived a sinless life, obeying God's law perfectly and thus became someone who could stand in the gap for the sins of the people.





When he was crucified, he took upon himself the sins of his people, paid the penalty for sin and removed the consequences of sin. Now the penalty for sin has been paid for those who believe and accept Christ.

Jesus Christ gave His righteousness to those with faith so that we can stand before God without shame. He resurrected on the third day, proving his death was sufficient to forgive sin and to justify. It also proved that he had conquered death and the grave.

The following chart shows how the work of Christ applies to us sinners in every point of our need when we believe.



NEED	SOLUTION
1. God's holy wrath was against us.	By Jesus' sacrifice he satisfied and turned away the wrath of God (for those with faith).
2. Our sin made us guilty.	By his righteous life and death his people, by faith, are declared righteous and free of guilt.
3. We were alienated from God.	By his death he has reconciled his people back to God.
4. We were in bondage to sin.	By his death, the ransom price has been paid. Now there is freedom for all who believe.
5. We were spiritually dead.	By his work those who believe are raised to spiritual life and filled with God's Spirit.

How do we receive the benefits of the work of Christ? Not everyone is saved from the consequences of their sin because of the work of Christ. The wrath of God remains on all until we have faith (Ephesians 2: 3). What is this faith and how can we get it if we're naturally dead in sin?

WHAT IS SALVATION?

(Romans 8: 29-30)


Salvation is a work of God which draws us to Jesus and the gospel and allows us to benefit from His work. We are restored into a right relationship with God. Eternal life is secured for us. God orchestrates a wonderful transformation which he planned from eternity past.

To have faith is to believe God. Faith has three elements:

- 1) Understanding all the content of the gospel
- 2) Assent or believing the truth of the gospel
- 3) Commitment or pledging loyalty to Christ because of the gospel.

These correspond to the mind, emotions and will. Faith is not a work from man, but rather it is a gift from God by his grace (Ephesians 2: 8-9).





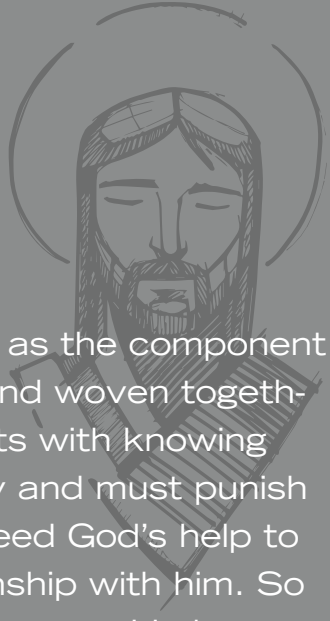
Repentance is a spiritual response to what God has done for us through Christ.

Repentance is a turning from sin to God, and relying on Christ and his work alone for salvation. Repentance is acting on the conviction that you have done wrong against God. It is asking for his forgiveness. Together, like two sides of the same coin, faith and repentance are our conscious response to God's salvation. Once we have repented, we enter into sanctification. Sanctification is to be set apart, or made holy. We grow in holiness, cooperating with the Holy Spirit. We walk with God by faith and repentance. It is God who brings us to completion until the day of Christ ([Philippians 1: 6](#)). Then, the church will be fully transformed when Christ returns ([1Thessalonians 4: 16-17](#)).



Salvation is a great work of God and to his glory. The Holy Spirit uses the gospel message to bring his people to faith ([Romans 1: 16](#)), and then helps us to grow by this same message. You may ask, “What must I do to be saved?” The answer is repent and believe the gospel. When you do this, you become a child of God and the Holy Spirit comes to live within you. Then you will have the power to live a new life for God. At the end, he will gather his children together and we will be with him forever. Amen!

GOSPEL SUMMARY



Hopefully the gospel is clearer as the component parts are defined, explained, and woven together. Understanding it really starts with knowing God and ourselves. God is holy and must punish sin. We are born into sin and need God's help to be restored into a right relationship with him. So why does God save us? It is because He loves us ([John 3: 16](#)). So Jesus came in the flesh to reconcile us with God. We all like sheep had gone astray but God laid on him our sin ([Isaiah 53: 6](#)).

Jesus was both God and man. He came to save the lost from the wrath of God. He had to suffer and die in the place of all those who would believe. It is by grace that we're saved, through faith ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). By faith we mean committing your life to God based on an understanding of who Christ is and what he's done for you. In order for anyone to believe, God has to draw us to Jesus and the gospel. We respond in faith and repentance as a result.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. David Silver has been practicing Internal Medicine as a primary care provider for over twenty years in the Baltimore area. He studied at Reformed Theological Seminary in the Washington area and developed a heart to teach the gospel and books of the bible. He is the founder and President of a non-profit ministry called Transformation Bible Ministries (TBM).

TBM teaches books of the bible using layman's guides developed with excellent resources, relevant questions and an emphasis on application. These guides are available to help individuals, small groups or Sunday school classes. TBM also does conferences using this inductive, interactive and practical approach.

We encourage you to visit a Bible believing church that preaches the gospel message and diligently teaches the Bible. If you have accepted this message for the first time we rejoice with you.

Read the Bible regularly and pray. Seek to be baptized if you have not been and take communion regularly. God bless.



QUESTIONS?

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www.transformationbibleministries.org