

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL
GOOD NEWS 101
Pastor Rick Reager – August 21, 2022

I. WHY MUST I HAVE A CLEAR & ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOSPEL?

IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL:

1. I _____

"¹³ You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴ But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it." Matthew 7:13-14

2. OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD WILL _____

"¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it." 1 Peter 5:13

3. I WON'T BE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT _____

"¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." Matthew 28:19-20

II. WHAT MUST I KNOW ABOUT THE GOSPEL MESSAGE?

1. EVERYTHING WAS _____

"¹⁵ 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." Colossians 1:15-17

"¹¹ You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased." Revelation 4:11

2. SIN HAS _____ FROM GOD & THE WAGES OF SIN IS _____

"¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants." Galatians 5:17

"² It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore." Isaiah 59:2

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

3. EVERYONE _____

"³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard" Romans 3:23

"⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts." 1 John 1:8-10

4. JESUS IS _____ TO SALVATION

“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.” John 3:16

“⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

KEY: JESUS PAID THE _____ FOR OUR SINS

“²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.” Romans 3:23-26

5. TO BE SAVED, WE MUST _____, _____, & SUBMIT TO THE _____

i. _____

“⁹ If you confess with your mouth 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 confessing with your mouth that you are saved.” Romans 10:9-10

ii. _____

“³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Acts 2:38-39

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

a. Feeling _____

“⁸ I am not sorry that I sent that severe letter to you, though I was sorry at first, for I know it was painful to you for a little while. ⁹ Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you, but because the pain caused you to repent and change your ways. It was the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have, so you were not harmed by us in any way. ¹⁰ For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.” 2 Corinthians 7:10

b. Changing _____

“² Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2

c. Asking God For _____

“⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us

from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:8-9

**d. Turning From Living _____ (Which Leads To Sin), & Turning _____
& Living _____**

“¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.” Romans 12:1

iii. _____

“³⁴ Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.” Mark 8:34

“⁹If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.” Romans 10:9-10

6. WE ARE SAVED _____, NOT BY _____

“⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-10

7. TRUE _____ WILL BE DEMONSTRATED BY OUR _____

“³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:3-6

“²⁰ I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.” Acts 26:20

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT OBEDIENCE:

i. Full Obedience Is Only Possible With The _____

“¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13

“⁷ But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.” John 16:7-8

Obedience Requires _____

ii. _____ Does NOT Equal _____

“²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God’s law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.” Romans 7:21-25

Grace Covers _____

KEY: There Is A Big Difference Between _____ & Routine _____

iii. If We Are Living Obediently, We Will Quickly _____ & _____
Whenever We Sin

“⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:8-9

8. BEFORE DECIDING TO FOLLOW JESUS, WE SHOULD _____

“²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’ ³¹ “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him?” Luke 14:27-31

WHAT IS THE COST?

To Follow Jesus, We Must Give Up _____!

“³⁴ Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.” Mark 8:34-35

“³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.” Luke 14:32

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS (Top 3)?

i. _____ Life

“²⁹ And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.” Matthew 19:29

ii. _____ Life

“¹⁰ The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” John 10:10

iii. _____ For Life

“⁸ The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.” Psalm 32:8

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Is Anything Worth Losing _____?

“³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? ³⁷ Is anything worth more than your soul?” Mark 8:36-37

9. ONCE WE ARE SAVED, WE RECEIVE _____ & _____

“³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Acts 2:38-39

“²² and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.” 2 Corinthians 1:22

“⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” Acts 1:8

“¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 1:19-20

“²⁰ For the Kingdom of God is not just fancy talk; it is living by God’s power.” 1 Corinthians 4:20

“¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13

10. ONCE WE ARE SAVED, WE ARE _____

“³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39

“²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹ for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one.” John 10:27-30

“⁴ For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— ⁶ and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.” Hebrews 6:4-6