

Gospel Theology - Mini Course

Gospel is Power of Salvation

Are you looking to be refreshed with new joy and new hope?

In our lives we are frequently swinging between times of great blessings and times of suffering. Whether we suffer or struggle, achieve or relax, we all want more joy and hope in our lives.

Yes the Gospel is a person, a paradigm, a proclamation, but the gospel is also power. A power that transforms our mind, heart, and soul.

The beauty of the gospel is that it is a holistic gospel for our entire life. It is the power of salvation that changes who we are. It changes the relationship God has with us, past, present and future. This truth changes how we experience joy and hope in our lives.

Look with me at Romans 1.

Rom 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.”

We see the gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

Francis Schaeffer said, “...the word ‘salvation’ here is not justification. The word ‘salvation’ encompasses the whole: justification, sanctification, glorification.”

Author Tim Keller said it this way, “The gospel message is actually the power of God in verbal, cognitive form. It lifts people up; it transforms and changes things. When articulated or reflected upon, the power is released.”

The power of the Gospel is for your whole salvation. It's how you get into the Christian life, how you grow in the Christian life, and the way in which you are ultimately fully glorified with Christ.

Eph 1:13-14

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

The gospel of salvation is past tense, present tense, and future tense. Think about what's true for you right now. You have been called by God, included in Christ when you heard the truth of the gospel, you've been adopted into his family, you've been regenerated, made brand new, you've been marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, you've been redeemed, purchased from sin and death and made alive to him. You've been raised up with Christ already in the heavenly realms, you're a brand new creation. You are perfectly his, safe, reconciled, restored, you are in Him. You have this beautiful union with Christ, where you're in the center and are an object of his love. That is past tense salvation!

Presently right now, Jesus is on his throne of grace, looking at you, interceding on your behalf, loving you, giving you, by the Holy Spirit, new faith, new repentance, new assurance, new joy, new power. Right now the Holy Spirit is transforming you one degree of glory to another into the very image of Jesus. Right now the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are working in concert together to drive you into the image of Christ. And they are going to succeed. Our Lord in Heaven delights in you, rejoices over you with singing, and loves you.

There's also a future tense gospel. One day you will be fully restored. You are going to share in the very glory of Jesus. You will be fully comforted. You will inherit his inheritance, which means you're going to reign and rule with Jesus in the new heavens and the new earth. His inheritance will be your inheritance and you will be royalty. You'll be fully blessed. You'll be satisfied in ways you can't even begin to comprehend because there will be no more longings or a lack of fulfillment. You'll be completely holy and you're going to celebrate in the marriage supper of the lamb, which means you'll be at the ultimate feast where Jesus your bridegroom will shower you with his love. That's the gospel!! Past tense, present tense, future tense.