



What Is the Gospel?

The gospel is what every person must know, believe and respond to in order to be saved *from* an eternity of separation from God and *to* an eternity of the enjoyment of God through Christ. Here are the basics:

1. God Created Us to Worship Him.

“In the beginning God...” (Genesis 1:1). This is how the Bible begins because this is how all of history began. Before anything came into existence, God was. He created man to bring glory to Himself through joyful worship in all that we do and say. Our very purpose is to respond to God in obedience and reverence, and in perfect satisfaction and joy (Ecclesiastes 5:19-20,12:13; Matthew 25:21,23). Worship was never intended to be burdensome, but rather the way in which we would be accepted and given joy (Genesis 4:7).

2. We Have All Failed to Worship Him.

The word “gospel” actually means “good news.” But the message of the gospel is not any “good” to us unless we first understand the dilemma. The gospel is the solution to a universal problem. Though we have been created to worship God in perfect harmony with Him and each other, we have fallen from that purpose. The first man, Adam, disobeyed and we inherit this fallen condition (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:22). None of us can blame our separation from God solely on Adam though, because each of us willingly put ourselves first before God -- this is called sin, and each of us is personally guilty of it (Ecclesiastes 7:20; Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:23; Galatians 2:16). We need to be rescued from our dilemma because there is no way for us to undo what we have done or go back and do what we should have done. The acts have been committed and sin separates us from the source of life. And when we are separated from the source of eternal life, the only course is to face eternal death (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23).

3. Christ Came to Be the Perfect Worshiper We Couldn't Be.

Jesus was born sinless and committed no sin in his life meaning he worshiped God the Father perfectly as a man. But Jesus is also God (Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1, 20:28-29). This means that when he died, he was able to take our eternal penalty of death and satisfy the justice of God (1 Peter 3:18). He also rose again bodily from death in order to conquer death and lead his followers into the victory of eternal life with him (1 Corinthians 15:55-56; Hebrews 9:13-15). This is the good news!

4. If We Respond to Christ in Repentance and Faith, We Will Be Restored to Worship.

The Bible makes it plain that while the gospel must be proclaimed to everyone, it is only effective for those who embrace it by repenting and believing (Mark 1:15; John 3:16; Acts 2:37-38; Romans 10:9). This means that if you acknowledge that you are a sinner in your own right and you repent by confessing to the Lord and asking for his forgiveness you will be saved from judgement and instead experience restoration to God and joyful peace with Him. You do this because you believe that all that has been stated above is true. This does not mean your life here on this earth will not have trouble. On the contrary you will be persecuted for your faith (John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-19) and you will experience the same pains that everyone else is susceptible to in this fallen world and with our fallen bodies (Ecclesiastes 8:14, 9:2; Matthew 5:45). But the promise is that whatever befalls us in this life, we will inherit eternity with Christ in his Kingdom which will take place in real time and in a physical New Earth (Isaiah 65:17; Matthew 5:2-10; 2 Peter 3:12-13; Revelation 21:1).

If you have questions about the nature of the gospel or its implications for you, please contact us! We would count it a joy and a beautiful privilege to sit with you and talk with you. Call us at (630) 766-8009 or email us at cfcadmin@christianfc.org.