

The Gospel - Romans 1:1-17
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

We are starting a new, three week series titled *Pillars*. The purpose of this series is for us to share the core vision of Genesis, a reminder for those who have been here for a while, meanwhile an introduction for those who are newer. For most of us, the back to school season is really the start of a new year. Back to school season is also a time to engage other rhythms of life. At Genesis, we believe the regular participation in our Community Groups is vital. Of course, there are great benefits, but more importantly, deep Gospel community is central to God's plan in the world. In our Pillars series we will see that God's purpose has always been the Gospel made visible through the church. Through the Gospel, Christ rescues His people through the finished work of Jesus. The Gospel is not just a message for those who are distant from God, it is the answer to every questions and the hope for every life, and therefore the only message we have. Furthermore, this Gospel creates a people and puts them on display through the community of the local church. The church, then, is the Gospel made visible, as people who have discovered grace through the cross learn to love one another and live on mission together. This three week series will take a look at these three pillars, Gospel, Community, and Mission, and see that are central to everything we are and do as a church. The Gospel forms a community that is on mission, and will cast vision for how we apply these things at Genesis.

This week we are focusing on our central message, the Gospel. I was a churchy kid, my mom and dad had me in church all the time. I learned the essence of the Gospel when I was young and believed it when I was seven. Yet, the Gospel was sort of the ABC's of salvation, a basic message the pastor shared at the end of his sermons. He would preach from the Bible about various topics and give us life advice, then when he had a couple minutes left he would shift to the Gospel, telling the unsaved people attending how they could become a Christian. Of course, I believed, I was past that. Oh how wrong I was. The Gospel is not the ABC's of our salvation, the Gospel is the A-Z and all the numbers to infinity for life in this world. We never get beyond the Gospel, and we will never completely understand or "get" the Gospel. While we do believe it, the Gospel is an infinite well of eternal life, and a beautiful multi-faceted diamond that can be examined from a myriad of angles, each one exposing a new beauty and wonder.

The word, "Gospel" is an old English word used to translate the Greek word *evangeleon*. This word means the pronouncement of incredibly good news that will excite the soul and give peace to life. Ancient use of the word included the pronouncement of victory when a country's army had defeated their enemies defending the freedom and prosperity of the country. In the Scriptures, the Gospel is the good news about Jesus. In Romans 1, Paul calls it the Gospel of God (v. 1) and the Gospel of His Son (v. 9). Paul then declares that he is under obligation to preach the Gospel to people who have never heard, and gives us the glorious declaration that he is not ashamed of the Gospel, "For it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." Listen to what Paul is saying. He is declaring that his life is all about the proclamation of a straightforward message that is news. He is not giving advice, not teaching people how to live, not serving as people's life-coach. He is willing to give his whole life for this news, and willing to lay down his life if that is necessary just to make sure this news is shared. He can't keep good news to himself. So in Romans 1, Paul declares that it is his intention to come to Rome so he can visit this church in the capital city, but he wants to do so to see the glory of the Gospel in them and preach the Gospel in the city. Furthermore, in chapter 16 Paul will write that his ultimate goal is that this church send him to Spain to continue his mission of preaching the Gospel.

This Gospel, this good news is not just a simple set of facts for us to acknowledge, pray a quick prayer of belief, and move on. The Gospel is the core message of the Bible, in fact, every word in the Bible points us to either our need of Jesus or displays a glorious element of the Gospel. To believe this message is not just mentally affirming its truth, to

believe the Gospel is to turn from our own pursuits, sin, and self-salvation experiment and to embrace this good news as our own story, the foundation and core of our very lives. And it is the answer to every question. The path to joy, holiness, and peace is not paved with the goodness of our own efforts, it is laid out for us in the finished work of Jesus on our behalf, and our trust in Him. Think of it this way, we are not here to give you advice, we are here to share good news, to announce the salvation available in the Gospel. And we are inviting all of us to hear this glorious message again so we can repent and believe the Gospel again and again. Our church is a Gospel-centered church, we only have one message, one bullet in our gun. Week after week we are going to put the glory of Jesus on display and proclaim the Gospel as the hope for every life, and the answer to any challenge, struggle, and issue we face. Like Paul, we are not ashamed of the Gospel and we want to spend our lives making Jesus known so that all people can hear and love Him.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Deuteronomy 26	Deuteronomy 27	Deuteronomy 28	Deuteronomy 29	Deuteronomy 30	Deuteronomy 31	Deuteronomy 32

Reading from this past week: Romans 1:1-17

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Ephesians 2:11-22, 4:1-16

Family Worship

Song - *You are My King (Amazing Love)*

https://youtu.be/yKJnxA_3AY8?si=UpVx4NIDtbERS7qa

Gospel Project

Unit: The Rejection of Jesus

Story: The world is against God

Big Picture Question: Why do people reject Jesus?

Answer: People reject Jesus because all people are born with a sin nature and want to please themselves rather than obey God.

Scripture: Ephesians 6

New City Catechism

Question #35: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

Answer: From the Holy Spirit..

Verse: Ephesians 6

Scripture

Romans 1:1-17

*Paul says he is not ashamed of the Gospel. Why would he be willing to give his whole life and even give up his life for the Gospel?

*If someone were to ask you to explain the Gospel to them, what would you say?

*Why is the Gospel news and not advice? Why does this matter?

*What does it mean for Genesis to be a Gospel-centered church? Do you believe we fulfill this desire? What steps could we take to do a better job in this?

Prayer

Pray that we would be a Gospel-centered church and that individually we would continue to believe the Gospel.

*Pray for men and women working as chaplains to our armed forces, public servants, hospitals, and in the other places they serve to care for people in crisis and share Jesus with them.