

Ingredient 1, Gospel Fluency and Clarity - Romans 3:21-26
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

What's the best news you have ever received? Not the best advice, the best news? "You're pregnant!" "You passed the class and can graduate!" "The Rams won the Super Bowl!" Good news brings joy to the heart and a bit of a leap to our steps. And really good news is designed to pass on, to share. News by definition is the announcement of something that has already happened. And once we hear this news we just can't keep this information to ourselves.

What we may not realize is that the center of our faith, the heart of Christianity is news, not advice. The Bible is not first and foremost a book of instructions, or as some people "basic instructions before leaving earth (a little acrostic there if you didn't see it). The central purpose of the Bible is not to teach you how to live, the core mission of the Scriptures is to give us news. It is an announcement from God about God and His story of redemption. That story centers on the perfect life, substitutionary death, burial, and victorious resurrection of Jesus, an event set in history that authentically happened. So the key to understanding the Scriptures is to realize that everything in the Bible is pointing us to this event and inviting us to see this as good news. In fact, it is telling us that something cosmic happened for you and for all of creation in this event.

This good news has massive implications. Because of what Jesus accomplished we are forgiven and cleansed from sin, rescued from slavery to sin, reconciled to God our Father, included in God's family, we are made righteous meaning we are given God's approval and love, we get a new identity, and transformed day by day into the image of Jesus. All of this because of Jesus! This is the best news ever. The Bible is about this news and the core invitation from the Bible is a call to believe the Gospel. To realize that our hope and salvation is not found in what I do, but in what Jesus has done for me and to believe. And therefore to entrust my life wholly to Jesus as my Lord or King. And like all news, it is supposed to be shared. Yet, there often is an issue within the church. Subtly, without thinking about it, we begin thinking that the Gospel is primarily for unbelievers. It is the way to salvation, and yes, the Gospel should be proclaimed to every person on planet earth. But very quickly we can turn our Christianity into the story of religious performance, our acts done to gain the approval of God and prove the authenticity of faith. As a result we begin to get our own identity from religious performance and judge others through the same lense.

So our first ingredient for making disciples is Gospel clarity and fluency. This is our desire to make Jesus the center of every message and keep reminding us that both salvation and sanctification (our life of growth in Jesus) depend on repentance and faith in the Gospel. If we are not careful, we can teach the ingredients of discipleship, calling people to do things like study the Bible, prayer, worship, gather with the church, etc., and create a people who do all of these things extremely well, meanwhile the motivational structure of the heart is religious performance. But this type of discipleship often results in prideful, means spirited people, full of judgment. In other words, we create Pharisees, the people who continually confronted the perfect righteous Son of God telling Him he was not really good enough.

In Romans 3, Paul begins a deep dive into the core truth of the Gospel. He reminds us of the universal need for the Gospel, because "All have sinned." As a result, the Law of God cannot be a life tool, because all it will do is condemn. Rather, the Law and Prophets point us to our need of and the glorious news about Jesus. This Jesus made God's perfect righteousness available to us, and by His blood He has redeemed us. The Gospel is not just the ABC's of salvation. The Gospel of Jesus is the A-Z, and all the numbers. The Christian life is not a life of performance, rather it is an invitation to believe the best news ever, and as

we enter into this story, the glory and power of Jesus transforms us into the image of Jesus. We are saved by grace, but we also become disciples by the grace of God in the Gospel. So it is our job to follow the admonition of reformer Martin Luther.

It (the Gospel) is also the principal article of all Christian doctrine, wherein the knowledge of all godliness consisteth. Most necessary it is, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually."

So I close with the definition of the Gospel we will use in the service this week.

The Gospel is the announcement of what God accomplished through Jesus by grace for our salvation and the redemption of all creation to received by faith and thereby bring us back to God.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Corinthians 6	1 Corinthians 7	1 Corinthians 8	1 Corinthians 9	1 Corinthians 10	1 Corinthians 11	1 Corinthians 12

Reading from this past week: Romans 3:21-26

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Matthew 22:34-40

Family Worship

Song - *There is One Gospel*

<https://youtu.be/4GZuSivURPk?si=BKQcICh4zsnk4DxU>

Gospel Project

Unit: Peter's Ministry

Story: Peter Healed a Man

Big Picture Question: Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus?

Answer: We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe the good news.

Scripture: Acts 3

New City Catechism

Question 5: How can we glorify God?

Answer: We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.

Verse: Deuteronomy 11:1

Scripture

Romans 3:21-26

- What is the best news you ever received? Did you keep that news to yourself?
- In your own words, what is the Gospel? How would you define it?
- Why is it important to keep preaching the Gospel to ourselves and remind ourselves that our identity is in the Gospel and not in our performance?

Prayer

*Pray that the Gospel would sink deeply in our lives and that we would believe and proclaim the Gospel clearly.

*Pray for victims of sexual abuse and that the church would protect children and woman from abuse.