

Getting the Gospel Straight: A Summary of the Gospel Teachings

- I. We must teach people about *God*. (**Acts 17:24-31**; Genesis 1; Isaiah 44:24; 45:18; 45:21-23; Colossians 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 8:6)
- A. God is the Creator, Sustainer, Ruler, and Father of all men and women...
 - B. ...and therefore our greatest privilege *and* duty is to serve and worship and seek after Him...
 - C. ...knowing full well that God will hold us *accountable* on the Day of Judgment.
- II. We must teach people about *sin*.
- A. Sin is any failure to perfectly obey *God's Law*. (Rom. 3:20; 7:7; Gal. 3:24; 1 John 3:4)
 - 1. The Great Commandment (**Matthew 22:35-40**)
 - 2. The Ten Commandments (explain what the Great Commandment requires; **Exodus 20:3-17**)
 - 3. Broken one, broken all (**James 2:10**)
 - 4. The Sermon on the Mount (the heart of the Ten commandments; **Matthew 5:20-22, 27-28**; Proverbs 21:2; **Luke 16:15**)
 - 5. The moral rich man (example/illustration; **Luke 18:18-26**)
 - B. *All* have sinned (We are completely helpless to obey God's law; **Romans 3:10-12, 23**)
 - C. Sin makes us *guilty* before God (deserving objects of God's everlasting wrath; **Romans 2:5-6, 8-9**; Revelation 21:8)
- III. We must teach people about *Jesus Christ*.
- A. In His life Jesus was the holy and righteous Son of God. (He perfectly fulfilled every requirement of God's Law; **Heb. 4:15**; 1 Jn. 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 7:26).
 - B. In His death Jesus was accursed of God and suffered His wrath just like a sinner and a law-breaker (Deut. 21:22-23; **Matt. 27:46**).
 - C. In His resurrection...
 - 1. God vindicated Jesus and proved that He suffered God's curse not for any sin of His own.
 - 2. Instead, as the holy and righteous Son of God, Jesus suffered God's curse in the place of guilty sinners (**Gal. 3:13; 2 Cor. 5:21**; 1 Jn. 4:10).
 - 3. And *because* He has done this, we can now have *forgiveness of sins* (**Rom. 5:6-9**; 8:1-4; **Eph. 1:7**).
 - D. Jesus ascended to the right hand of God as Lord and King and so it's also through Jesus that guilty sinners will be judged and condemned (Acts 2:33-36; 10:42; **17:31**).

E. So what must we do to be saved? What must we do to have the forgiveness of sins?

IV. We must teach people about *repentance* and *faith*.

A. Repent! (**Acts 2:37-38**; 17:30)

1. Not just sorrow and regret (2 Cor. 7:10)...
2. Not just conviction of sin (Acts 2:37; 5:33; 24:25)...
3. But exchanging the mastery of sin for the Lordship of Christ (**Matt. 6:24; Luke 9:23-26**; 14:26; Psalm 51:1-17).

B. Believe! (Acts 16:30-31; **John 3:16**)

1. Not just believing in your heart that the Gospel is true (**James 2:19**)...
2. Not just a hopeful feeling...
3. But a *casting* of oneself completely upon Christ and *trusting* fully and only in Him for salvation (**Jn. 1:12; 1 Cor. 1:30-31**; Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3:3-11).

C. Jesus stands ready to forgive *all* who will come to Him in repentance and faith (**Rev. 22:17**; Jn. 3:16)!

V. We must teach people how to have true *assurance* of salvation.

A. As time goes by, and you see the fruits of repentance and faith in your life, you can have more and more and more of a joyful assurance that you have true repentance and saving faith (**1 Jn. 5:13; 1:8-10; 2:3-6, 29; 3:8; 3:14; 4:7-8; 5:1; Gal. 5:22-23**; Heb. 6:11; 2 Pet. 1:4-11)!

B. If you have truly repented and believed, then you can know that you have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven because of God's wonderful promises and faithfulness to His word.

1. God promises to enable you to persevere in true repentance and saving faith to the very end of your life! (1 Pet. 1:5; **1 Thess. 5:23-24**; 2 Thess. 3:3, 5; **Phil. 1:6**; Jn. 10:27-29; Rom. 8:31-39; **1 Jn. 5:18**; 2 Tim. 1:12)
2. God promises to give eternal life to all those who believe! (**Jn. 3:15-16**; 6:40; **1 Jn. 2:25**)

Scriptures

I. We must teach people about God.

- A. Acts 17:24-31 – The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, “For we also are His children.” Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.
- B. Genesis 1
- C. Isaiah 44:24 – Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, “I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by Myself and spreading out the earth all alone.”
- D. Isaiah 45:18 – For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), “I am the LORD, and there is none else.”
- E. Isaiah 45:21-23 – There is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except Me. Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.
- F. Colossians 1:16-17 – For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
- G. 1 Corinthians 8:6 – There is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

II. We must teach people about sin.

- A. Romans 3:20 – By the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.
- B. Romans 7:7 – I would not have come to know sin except through the Law.
- C. 1 John 3:4 – Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

- D. **Matthew 22:35-40** – A lawyer, asked [Jesus] a question, testing Him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”
- E. **Exodus 20:3-17**
1. ~ You shall have no other gods before Me.
 2. ~ You shall not make for yourself an idol.
 3. ~ You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
 4. ~ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
 5. ~ Honor your father and your mother.
 6. ~ You shall not murder.
 7. ~ You shall not commit adultery.
 8. ~ You shall not steal.
 9. ~ You shall not bear false witness.
 10. ~ You shall not covet.
- F. **James 2:10** – For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.
- G. **Matthew 5:20-22, 27-28** – I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. You have heard that the ancients were told, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER” and “Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, “You good-for-nothing,” shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, “You fool,” shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell... You have heard that it was said, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY”; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- H. **Proverbs 21:2** – Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.
- I. **Luke 16:15** – [Jesus] said, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.”
- J. **Luke 18:18-26** – A ruler questioned [Jesus], saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, ‘DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.’” And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” When Jesus heard this, He said to him, “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. And Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” They who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?”

- K. **Romans 3:10-12, 23** – There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- L. **Romans 2:5-6, 8-9** – But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: ... to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil.
- M. **Revelation 21:8** – But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

III. We must teach people about **Jesus Christ**

- A. **Hebrews 4:15** – [Jesus] has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.
- B. **1 John 3:5** – In Him there is no sin.
- C. **1 Peter 2:22** – [Jesus] committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth.
- D. **Hebrews 7:26** – [Jesus was] holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners.
- E. **Deuteronomy 21:22-23** – If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God).
- F. **Matthew 27:46** – About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, Why have You forsaken Me?”
- G. **Romans 1:4** – [Christ Jesus] was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.
- H. **Galatians 3:13** – Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”
- I. **2 Corinthians 5:21** – He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- J. **1 John 4:10** – In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (the substitute blood sacrifice) for our sins.
- K. **Ephesians 1:7** – In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.
- L. **Romans 5:6-9** – For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
- M. **Romans 8:1-4** – Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- N. Acts 2:33-36 – Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet’” Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.
- O. Acts 10:42 – [Jesus] is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.
- P. Acts 17:31 – [God] has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

IV. We must teach people about **repentance** and **faith**.

- A. Acts 2:37-38 – “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
- B. Acts 17:30 – God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent.
- C. 2 Corinthians 7:10 – For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- D. Matthew 6:24 – No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth [or God and sin].
- E. Luke 9:23-26 – If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.
- F. Luke 14:26 – If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.
- G. Psalm 51:1-17
- H. Acts 16:30-31 – “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”
 - I. John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
 - J. James 2:19 – You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.
 - K. John 1:12 – But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.
 - L. 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 – But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”
 - M. Galatians 6:14 – But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
 - N. Philippians 3:3-9 – We... glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of

Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

- O. **Revelation 22:17** – The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.
- P. **John 3:16** – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whoever* believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

V. We must teach people how to have true **assurance** of salvation

- A. **1 John 5:13** – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.
- B. **1 John 1:8-10** – If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.
- C. **1 John 2:3-6, 29; 3:8** – By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked... If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him... The one who practices sin is of the devil.
- D. **1 John 3:14; 4:7-8; 5:1** – We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death... Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love... Whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.
- E. **Galatians 5:22-23** – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
- F. **Hebrews 6:11** – And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end.
- G. **2 Peter 1:4-11** – He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he

who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

- H. 1 Peter 1:5 – [You] are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- I. **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** – Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
- J. 2 Thessalonians 3:3, 5 – The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.
- K. **Philippians 1:6** – For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- L. John 10:27-29 – My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.
- M. Romans 8:31-39 – If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- N. **1 John 5:18** – We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.
- O. 2 Timothy 1:12 – I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.
- P. **John 3:15-16** – Whoever believes will in [Jesus] have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
- Q. John 6:40 – For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.
- R. **1 John 2:25** – This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.