

26 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD BE ASKING!

QUESTION #14: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God
- 1 Peter 3.18*

The eternal, holy, and just God intersected human history as a man, to die as a substitute for his rebellious creation, and rise from death to defeat sin, death, and hell so that anyone who places their total trust on him will be victorious with him and spend eternity in heaven with him instead of eternity away from him in the conscious torment of hell.

1. JESUS CAME

A. TO SHOW US THE FATHER

No one has seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (John 1.18)

Even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. (John 10.38)

B. TO LIVE, AS A MAN, A HOLY LIFE BEFORE THE FATHER

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (Matthew 5.17)

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2.17)

Christ is faithful over God's house as a Son. (Hebrews 3.6)

2. JESUS DIED

A. TO BEAR THE PENALTY OF SIN

i. Substitution

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God. (1 Peter 3.18)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5.21)

ii. Propitiation

In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4.10)

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2.17)

B. TO RECONCILE YOU TO GOD

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself . . . (2 Corinthians 5.18)

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep, we might live with him. (1 Thessalonians 5.9)

3. JESUS ROSE

A. TO DEFEAT DEATH

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (Hebrews 2.14-15)

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection from the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. . . . And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. (1 Corinthians 15.12-14, 17)

B. TO CONFIRM THE EFFICACY OF HIS WORK

[H]e has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. (Acts 17.31)

[B]ut these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20.31)

I am ascending to my Father, and your Father, to my God and your God. (John 20.17b)

4. HOW IS THE GOSPEL CONNECTED TO OUR CORE VALUES?

TRUTH

For I would have you know brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1.11-12)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14.6)

HUMILITY

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant . . . he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 4.5-7a, 8)

FREEDOM

Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgement on the one that eats, for God has welcomed him. (Romans 14.3)

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who is indeed interceding for us. (Romans 8.34)