

***The Message of the Gospel***





**The Message of the Gospel  
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2009  
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# Message about God: Reconciling Mercy and Justice

“Man’s alienation from God should be presented in light of the apparent conflict or contradiction between God’s mercy and his justice, God’s love and his law. The problem is that God must act in a way that expresses both his mercy and his justice. On the one hand God would be unjust if he simply cleared guilty people. On the other hand God hates to see sinners condemned. The Bible teaches that God hates the death of a sinner, but also sworn that the soul that sins must die.” *Dr. Steven Childers*

## 1

### **Exodus 34:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

- How can God be justified in pardoning sinful humans while still being just and righteous in his character?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can God be a fair and just judge by not sentencing every eternally guilty sinner to an eternal punishment?

## 2

### **Read the following Verses:**

- Ezekiel 18:4
- Deuteronomy 32:4
- Job 34:12
- Psalm 89:14
- Psalm 98:9

Summarize below what these verses teach about God.

### 3

#### Read the following Verses:

- Ezekiel 33:11      Lamentations 3:22-23
- Psalm 103:4-5      Psalm 103:11-12

Summarize below what these verses teach about God.

### 4

#### Romans 1:16-17

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

- How does the gospel reveal that God is righteous—acting justly in accordance with his holy character?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How does the gospel bring together God’s justice in condemning sin and his mercy in saving people?

### 5

#### Romans 3:21-26

<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- How does this passage explain that God is just in forgiving sinful people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How does God effectively deal with sin yet at the same time maintain his righteous character? What are the elements involved in salvation?

# Message about God: His Passion to be Glorified

“The Gospel is a message about God. It tells us who he is, what his character is, what his standards are, and what he requires of us, his creatures. It tells us that we owe our very existence to him, that for good or ill we are always in his hands and under his eye, and that he made us to worship and serve him, to show forth his praise and to live for his glory.”

J.I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*.

**The gospel is about God restoring our original purpose—glorifying him forever!**

**1**

**God created us for his glory**

*"Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth,... whom I created for my glory" (Isaiah 43:6-7)*

God made us to magnify his greatness - the way telescopes magnify stars. He created us to put his goodness and truth and beauty and wisdom and justice on display. The greatest display of God's glory comes from deep delight in all that he is. This means that God gets the praise and we get the pleasure. God created us so that he is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.

What is the purpose God created people? What is significant about this?

**2**

**Every human should live for God's glory**

*"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"*  
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

If God made us for his glory, it is clear that we should live for his glory. Our duty comes from his design. So our first obligation is to show God's value by being satisfied with all that he is for us.

What are the implications of this verse for your life?

**3**

**All of us have failed to glorify God as we should and are subject to just condemnation**

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "The wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23).*

What does it mean to "fall short of the glory of God?"

# 4

## **God sent Jesus to provide eternal life and joy to those who trust in him**

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” John 1:12

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3

“I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.” John 10:10

- Summarize what these verses are saying below.

# 5

## **Therefore we are restored to our original purpose: to enjoy and glorify God forever!**

God has provided Christ, who has restored the relationship between God and his people.

Now, believers can live fully for his name and renown, without sin hindering this purpose for man. Through Christ, God has restored people to their intended purpose—to enjoy and glorify God forever!

Adapted from *Quest for Joy*, John Piper

# 6

## **Revelation 5:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” <sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” <sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” <sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

How does this passage show the ideas of the first 5 points of this study?

# Message about Sin: How deep is our Debt?

The gospel is a message about sin. It tells us how we have fallen short of God's standard; how we have become guilty, filthy, and helpless in sin, and now stand under the wrath of God. It tells us that the reason why we sin continually is that we are sinners by nature, and that nothing we do, or try to do, for ourselves can put us right, or bring us back into God's favor. It shows us ourselves as God sees us, and teaches us to think of ourselves as God thinks of us. Thus it leads us to self despair. And this also is a necessary step. Not till we have learned our need to get right with God, and our inability to do so by any effort of our own, can we come to know the Christ who saves us from sin."

J.I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, p. 59

**1**

Read Genesis 3:1-6: How is the serpent depicted in the story? What is his strategy and how does he execute it?

Read Genesis 2:15-17 and compare it's accuracy to Eve's response to Satan about the tree.

**2**

Read Genesis 3:7-13: What is the impact on Adam and Eve's relationship with one another and with God?

How do you see these same affects playing out in our lives, and the lives of those around us?

### 3

From the following passages, write down a list of the key words and phrases that define our condition before God:

- Ephesians 2:1-3
- Romans 2:4-5
- Romans 8:7-8
- Isaiah 64:6
- Genesis 6:5

Key words and phrases:

### 4

“Sin is the dare of God’s justice, the rape of his mercy, the jeer of his patience, the slight of his power and the contempt of his love.”  
John Bunyan, *Gathered Gold*, p. 291

“The impact of the fall on mankind is two-fold: 1) moral guilt and 2) moral corruption. Sinful man is not only under sin’s penalty but also under sin’s power. Sin is not only a legal problem but, at its core, it is a relational problem of an idolatrous heart-trying to find life in something or someone besides God. Sinful man is not only under God’s wrath but also under the dominion of sin (world, flesh, and the devil). Fallen man needs not only judicial pardon but also freedom from sin’s power and moral cleansing.”

Horatius Bonar, *The Everlasting Righteousness*, preface

“Man, by his fall into a state of sin, hath wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation; so as a natural man, being altogether averse from good, and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto.”

Westminster Confession (IX, 3).

Write out a few things that these quotes teach—write the ideas out in your own words.



# Message about Sin: Idolatry—What are You Worshipping?

“The reason our hearts are not more transformed is because we have allowed the affections of the heart to be captured by idols that steal our heart affection away from God... An idol today is something from which we get our identity. An idol is making something or someone other than Jesus Christ our true source of happiness and fulfillment”

Steve Childers, *True-Spirituality*

## 1

“Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the LORD. <sup>13</sup> "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” Jeremiah 2:12-13

What are the two sins they’ve committed?

What are the differences between a broken cistern and a spring of living water?

## 2

### **Locating Idols—think about the following diagnostic questions**

- What causes you consistently the greatest anxiety? What is it that causes you to become angry?
- What is my greatest nightmare? What, if I failed or lost it, would cause me to feel that I did not even want to live? What keeps me going? Who do I think most easily about? What does my mind go to when I am free? What makes me feel the most self-worth? What prayer, unanswered, would make me seriously think about turning away from God?

### **Are there any common themes?**

Write below what things tend to be too important to you. Why?

God promises to save those who believe in Christ from sin's domineering power over their lives by freely giving them a new heart (desires) and a new Spirit to empower them to know God, honor Him and enjoy Him forever. Although you can never be free from sin's ongoing influence until heaven, God's promise in Christ is to deliver you from sin's domineering power today.

### **Repentance**

"From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Matt 4:17

"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said "Repent (Matt 4:17) he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance"

Martin Luther

### **Faith**

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1-2

- Repentance is turning our affections away from idols and faith is turning our hearts affections on Christ.

"Some of us are obsessed with gaining approval, or recognition. Others are obsessed with experiencing comfort or pleasure or happiness. Some are obsessed with gaining control or power or possessions or building a reputation or gaining success as the world defines it. The apostle Paul was also obsessed. But his obsession was with Christ and the cross...Only when Jesus Christ becomes more attractive to us than the pleasures of our sin will our hearts ever be set free. The enslaving power of sin will never dissipate until a greater affection of the heart replaces it."

Steve Childers, *True Spirituality*

From the quotes above, write out what stands out to you as important. Write out what you can do to demonstrate a life of ongoing repentance and faith this week.

# Message about Christ: The Lamb of God

**1**

**OT Picture: Day of Atonement**

**Read Leviticus 16**

Two Lambs:

- Propitiate: Sins atoned for by **Sacrifice**
- Expiate: Sins taken away by **Scapegoat**

Write out your observations about the sacrifice and the scapegoat from Leviticus 16.

**2**

**Sacrifice: Christ's fulfillment**

**Sins laid on Christ**

Read Isaiah 53:4-6,12

Jot down your thoughts on how Jesus was the sacrifice.

Also, read Hebrews 9:11-15 and write out how Jesus was the sacrifice.

### 3

#### **Scapegoat: Christ's fulfillment—sins are taken away!**

Read John 1:29; Hebrews 9:27-28; Micah 7:19; Isaiah 43:25

Write out a summary paragraph in your own words about what these verses teach.

### 4

#### **Future of the Lamb**

Rev 7:14-17

<sup>14</sup>I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. <sup>16</sup>Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Rev 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

From these verses, make a list of what the future of the Lamb will be like.

# Message about Christ: Justification

**Justification:** Regarded as not guilty—counted righteous in God’s sight through Christ.

**Old Testament Picture of Justification:** Micah 7:8-9

“Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. <sup>9</sup> Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the LORD ’s wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.”

**1**

Read the following verses and write out everything you learn about justification.  
2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:15-16; Romans 5:1-2

**2**

**Romans 5:15-19**

<sup>15</sup> But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup> Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Write out how this passage describes the gift through Christ. What do we learn about justification from this passage?

### 3

#### **Justification is part of the unbreakable chain to glorification**

Rom 8:29-30

<sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Write this verse out in your own words.

### 4

#### **Glorified: Seated with Christ**

Ephesians 2:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

What has God done for us? Why? How?

What does this verse say about the future?

## **Redemption**

To buy back or secure the release of someone from captivity or slavery by payment of a ransom.  
Jerry Bridges

### **1**

#### **Old Testament Picture: Israelites redeemed from slavery in Egypt**

Read Deuteronomy 15:15; Exodus 15:13 and 19:4; Psalm 130:8

Write out what you learn from these verses about God. Why did he redeem his people? How did he do this?

### **2**

#### **Christ fulfills the Old Testament Picture.**

Read the following verses and write out a summary paragraph about redemption in Christ.

- Mark 10:45
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- 1 Peter 1:18-19
- Ephesians 1:7-8
- Colossians 1:14

Summary:

# 3

## Redemption through Christ

Read the following verses and write out a summary paragraph about redemption in Christ.

- Romans 3:23-24
- Galatians 3:14
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Hebrews 9:11-12
- Titus 2:11-14

Summary paragraph:

# 4

## **Ps 49:15**

But God will redeem my life from the grave; he will surely take me to himself.

## **Hebrews 9:15**

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

## **Romans 8:17**

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

## **Romans 8:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Make a list of what these verses teach about the benefits and the future of redemption.



# Message about Repentance: What Jesus Demands

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. *Repent* and believe the good news!" "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and *repentance* and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Mark 1:15 and Luke 24:46-47

"The gospel is a summons to faith and repentance. All who hear the gospel are summoned by God to *repent* and *believe*. "God commands all men every where to repent" Paul told the Athenians. Repentance and faith are rendered matters of duty by God's direct command, and hence impenitence and unbelief are singled out in the NT as most grievous sins. With these universal commands, go universal promises of salvation to all who obey them."

J.I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, p. 70

**1**

**Read the following passages and come up with a definition for repentance.**

Luke 3:7-14; Luke 19:1-9; and 2 Corinthians 7:8-11

Repentance:

**2**

"Repentance unto life...is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience" *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, question 87

"The real difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is not their attitude towards sin...the difference is their attitude toward their good deeds. The Pharisee repents of sin, but the Christian repents of his or her 'righteousness' as well, seeing it not only as insufficient, but sinful itself, since it was done in order to save ourselves without Christ."

Tim Keller, *The content of the Gospel*, p. 27

**Read the following quotes above and write out how they shed light on what repentance is and is not.**

# 3

## **Repentance: An event or a lifestyle?**

### **Reflect on the following quotations:**

“When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said ‘Repent,’ He called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance”  
Martin Luther, *Ninety Five Theses*

“It (repentance) involves a continual turning motion, turning toward God, and turning away from the riot of other voices, other desires, other loves.” We tend to use the word ‘repentance’ in its more narrow sense, for decisive moments of realization, conviction, confession, turning. But Luther uses the word in its wider, more inclusive sense. If we are living in Christ, we are living *from-to*. John Calvin put it in a similar way: “This restoration does not take place in one moment or one day or one year...In order that believers may reach this goal [the shining image of God], God assigns to them a race of repentance, which they are to run throughout their lives” The entire Christian life (including the more specific moments of repentance) follows a pattern of turning from other things and turning to the Lord.

David Pawlison, *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*, p.83

**Write out what you learn about repentance and life from these verses.**

**How will you apply the principles you learned in this study? Jot down below.**

# Message about Faith: What Jesus Demands

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and *believe* the good news!" Mark 1:15

"Faith is essentially the casting and resting of oneself and ones confidence on the promises of mercy which Christ has given to sinners, and on the Christ who gave those promises."

J.I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, p. 70

## 1

**What is faith?**

**Read the following passages.**

- John 1:12, 3:16-18, 36; 5:24; 6:28-29
- Romans 4:4-5
- Ephesians 1:13

List observations below about faith in Christ and what it secures:

## 2

"To believe in Jesus Christ alone means that you must transfer your trust, that is your hope for forgiveness of sin and life with God, from what you have been trusting in to Jesus Christ alone and what He has done for you on the cross."

"We are saved by faith alone but the faith that saves is never alone."

Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and the quotes above and write out what faith is and how it is related to doing good deeds.

# 3

**Look up the following references about the source of faith.**

Acts 5:31

Acts 13:48

Acts 16:14

Phil. 1:29

2 Tim 2:24-26

Summarize what these verses say about the source of faith.

Discuss below the ramifications of this as you consider your own faith, and you seek and pray for God to move in the heart's of others.

# The Message of the Gospel: Review

We covered four major topics in our study:

1. God
2. Sin
3. Christ
4. Conversion (repentance and faith)

We broke these topics down into nine lessons:

## 1

### **Lesson 1—God: His justice and mercy have been reconciled in Christ.**

Exodus 34:6-7

<sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

Romans 3:21-26

<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> *even the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

## 2

### **Lesson 2—God: He sent Christ to fix the sin problem and restore man’s original purpose; to glorify God.**

God created us for his glory--"*Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth,... whom I created for my glory*" (Isaiah 43:6-7) and we should live our lives to honor him--"*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God*" (1 Corinthians 10:31). But all us have failed to glorify God as we should and so God sent Jesus to provide holiness to those who trust in him, therefore we have been restored to our original purpose; to glorify God--"*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by grace though the redemption that came by Christ*" (Romans 3:23).

## 3

### **Lesson 3—Sin: We are sinful by our nature and we are objects of God’s wrath.**

Ephesians 2:1-3 <sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

## 4

**Lesson 4—Sin: Idolatry is when something or someone is placed higher in our affections than God.**

Jeremiah 2:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror,” declares the LORD. <sup>13</sup> “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

## 5

**Lesson 5—Christ: He is the Lamb of God who took away our sins by being sacrificed**

Isaiah 53:5-6

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Hebrews 9:27-28

<sup>27</sup> Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

## 6

**Lesson 6—Christ: We have been made righteous and justified in God’s sight through Christ**

Micah 7:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. <sup>9</sup> Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the LORD’s wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:21 <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## 7

**Lesson 7—Christ: His redemption has purchased us out of slavery to sin and into communion with God**

Ephesians 1:7-8

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Colossians 1:13-14

<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## 8

**Lesson 8—Conversion—Repentance: An initial act conversion and a lifestyle of turning away from sin and turning to God**

“Repentance unto life...is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience”

*Westminster Shorter Catechism, question 87*

“When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said ‘Repent,’ He called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance”

*Martin Luther, Ninety Five Theses*

# 9

## **Lesson 9—Conversion—Faith: God draws us to trust in Christ alone for our salvation, which results in good deeds**

Acts 16:14

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.

Romans 10:9-10

<sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

# 1

## **After reading through the above summaries and glancing at previous lessons:**

Draw a picture of the elements of the gospel, make a chart, or make a list.

# 2

What has impacted you the most during this study?

# 3

What applications to your life do you still want to make? Write these out.