**Sermon** What is the Gospel? **Romans 1:16-17; 3:20-28; Rom 4:25; 5:8; 10:9-10**

Survey by Cultural Research Center Arizona University Aug 9, 2020

*“Majority of American Christians Don’t Believe the Gospel”*

(on Gospel Coalition Website www.tgc.org))

**What is the gospel?** (10 words)

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GOSPEL= Good news about what’s been done *for us.*

**Romans 1:16-17** ‘righteousness of God’

3:20 ‘no human being will be **justified** in the His sight’.

*Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which He*

*1) thinks of our sins as* ***forgiven*** *and*

*2) Christ’s* ***righteousness*** *as belonging to us, and*

*3)* ***declares*** *us to be righteous in his sight*.

Think of it this way -

‘just as if’ – you never sinned (not guilty).

‘just as if’ – you always obeyed. (righteous)

Therefore, declares you right with Him.

Q1: How can God declare that we are not guilty for our sin, and that we are sinless- if we are in fact guilty sinners?

“There is therefore now ***no condemnation***for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1).

“Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect?

It is God who ***justifies***; who is to condemn?” (Rom. 8:33– 34).

“Abraham believed God, and *it was credited to him as* ***righteousness***” (Rom 4:16)

Q2: How do we receive this **forgiveness** and this **righteousness** so God can declare us righteous?

Through **faith** alone.

“After Paul explains in Romans 1:18–3:20 that no one will ever be able to make himself righteous before God-

(“For by works of the law no human beingwill be justified,” Rom. 3:20), then Paul goes on to explain that

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are **justified** by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”(Rom. 3:23–24). God’s “grace” means his “unmerited favor.”

Because we are completely unable to earn favor with God {through our good works}, the only way we could be declared righteous is if God freely provides salvation for us **by grace**, totally apart from our work. Paul explains in Ephesians, ‘For *by grace* you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast’ (Eph. 2:8–9; cf. Titus 3:7). Grudem, Systematic Theology, p729

Rom 4:16 “That is why it depends on **faith**, in order that the promise may rest on **grace**.”

Faith is TRUST.

You are **trusting** in Jesus’ death for

the payment of your sin, and

for his perfect righteousness   
credited to you.

Then God can declare you righteous.

The Roman Road of the Gospel:

Romans 1:16-17 God

Romans 3:11-12 Man

Romans 3:20

Romans 3:21-28

Romans 4:25

Romans 5:8 Christ

Romans 10:9-10 Response

**What is the gospel** in ~10 words from scripture? –

Romans 4:25- **“**who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification”.

i.e **Christ was crucified for our sins** and **raised for our justification**. (11 words)

**Christ died for us** (Romans 5:8) **and was raised for our justification**. (Romans 4:25). (10 words)

Discussion and Application

1. What is the righteousness of God? Mt 5:48
2. How is it revealed in the gospel?
3. What is a helpful way to think about ‘justification’ in basic, every day terms?
4. Discuss why it is so important to understand ‘justification’.
5. Believing means trusting. Romans 3:22 'The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe…". W hat exactly are we trusting God for? How is this different than good deeds?
6. How has your understanding and definition of the gospel grown?
7. How would you now explain the gospel to your child, or lost friends, or family member?
8. What would be concerning to you about the survey results of so many Christians believing that God will just forgive their sins and let them into heaven based on their good deeds?