

5. What is the content of the Christian gospel?

6. How does restricting or shrinking the gospel message down to an explanation of how to get to heaven or how to have a personal relationship with God impoverish its meaning.

7. How might your life change if you were deeply convinced that the gospel the POWER of God that brings salvation?

**The Gospel Journey Back to God
(A Series on Romans 1–4)**

“Mapping the Gospel Journey”

Romans 1:1-6,16-17

The journey back to God is going to be different for everyone. At the same time, the journey back to God is _____ for everyone.

Mapping the Gospel Journey

Bible Project “Romans 1-4” Video

1. What is the _____?

“Gospel” Defined

The term “gospel” was _____ by the early church as the term referring to the core teaching of Christianity and the teaching of Jesus.

Mark 1: ¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news [=gospel] of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news [=gospel]!”

The Content of the Gospel (Romans 1:2-4)

“...the gospel of God—the gospel...regarding his Son...Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Romans 1:2-4)

The gospel, is about _____. And Jesus is...

- The _____ of God's promises through the Scriptures.
- A descendant of King David who will _____ forever.
- The divine _____ of God.
- The one who rose from the dead.
- Lord and _____ (=Messiah, Anointed King).

The Effect of the Gospel (Romans 1:16-17)

The gospel (i.e., the message about Jesus) has power to bring _____.

"Salvation" is about going to heaven when you die and having a personal relationship with Christ, but it's so much _____.

- We don't stay in _____ for eternity.
- It's about escaping God's wrath against evil (his just/righteous judgment) and therefore making it in one piece through the final _____.
- It's not only about a restored relationship with God (i.e., reconciliation), it's also about redemption, atonement, regeneration, the restoration of the entire creation, adoption, union with Christ, sanctification, and _____.
- We're made righteous and put in right _____ with God (i.e., our justification)

God's righteousness is about "his right moral character manifested in his holiness and justice" (ESV Study Bible note adapted). That righteousness is transferred to _____ (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The gospel is this message that we can be saved (in all of the dimensions of salvation), but it's so much _____.

The gospel of God is that Jesus is the Messiah/King, Lord, risen Son of God, and the culmination of the biblical story of God reclaiming humanity and his creation. That message is the power of God to bring _____.

2. What is the _____?

At any point in the journey you can get back to God in one step—a step of putting your _____ in God. (Romans 1:16-17)

The gospel is news that calls for a response of _____.

Jared Wilson: "[The gospel] is not advice, not suggestion, not instruction. Nor is it vague spirituality, steps to enlightenment, skills to implement, or precepts to practice. It is information; it is an announcement. It is news."

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How is the gospel journey back to God different for everyone?
3. Read Romans 1:1-17. How is the gospel journey the same for everyone?
4. What is the everyday, simple meaning of the word "gospel" in Roman times, and what technical sense did it also have.