

THE GOSPEL

The Gospel is the good news of God's grace invading the darkness of this world. It is God's salvation plan orchestrated through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Christ's crucifixion is the heart of the gospel. His resurrection is the power of the gospel. His ascension is the glory of the gospel.

Christ's death is a substitutionary and propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. It satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and appeases His holy wrath. It also demonstrates His mysterious love and reveals His amazing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which man can be saved.

ONE GOSPEL; 2 VANTAGE POINTS

It is often said that there are many methods for sharing the gospel, but the message remains the same. The gospel should be communicated from a macro- and micro-level. We need to equally emphasise both so that certain key elements are not neglected.

MACRO-LEVEL

The gospel is viewed on a cosmic scale in highlighting an overarching narrative of creation, fall, redemption and consummation. This perspective is necessary and helpful as it properly situates man and his salvation in the global work of God to reconcile all things to Himself. However, if viewed alone, it neglects central realities demonstrated specifically in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Along with this neglect can come a subsequent disregard for the personal dimensions of the gospel, such as personal confession.

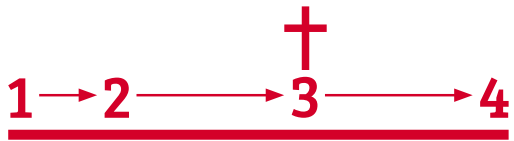
MICRO-LEVEL

The gospel is viewed in relation to the life, death, resurrection and future return of Jesus Christ. This perspective is necessary and helpful as it properly orients around the person and work of Jesus Christ for us and our salvation. However, if viewed alone, it neglects the cosmic context of the gospel in which the work of Christ is centered. Along with this neglect can come a subsequent disregard for the social dimensions of the gospel, such as social justice and community.

COMBINING THE PERSPECTIVES

Both levels are necessary in order to begin to glimpse the size and weight of the good news, the eternity-spanning wonderment of the finished work of Christ. Both are necessary so that we are not reductionistic in how we define what God is up to in our hearts and in the universe around us.

ONE GOSPEL; TWO VANTAGE POINTS



THE GOSPEL AT THE MACRO-LEVEL

1. CREATION. In the beginning, the Triune God, self-existent and entirely self-sufficient, out of love and to show forth His glory, made the world and everything in it. The world was made for human flourishing, there we could live in joy in the presence of our Maker, worshiping God by loving Him and one another forever. [Gen 1:1-2:25; Rev 4:11]

2. FALL. But something went terribly wrong. Adam and Eve rejected God's rule and authority over them. We carry this same rebellion, living out autonomous rejection of God's authority in our own lives. This rebellion results in physical and spiritual death. This fall from right relationship with God also has cosmic consequences, leading to a breakdown in every sphere of the created order. Our fractured existence leaves something deep within us aching for restoration. [Gen 3:1-24; Rom 5:12-21; 8:19-22]

3. REDEMPTION. Thankfully God did not leave us to our own demise. Though we were His enemies – God set a salvation plan in motion. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, took on human flesh in order to deliver us from our sin and brokenness. He lived a perfectly sinless life. This uniquely qualified Him to pay the debt sinful humanity owed to God. His sacrificial death on the cross, served as the substitute for us, providing a double-transfer: Jesus took on our sin and punishment while we received His perfect righteousness. [Rom 8:21-26; Eph 2:1-10]

4. RESTORATION. The story doesn't end with redemption. God has promised to renew the whole world. The church is now the spiritually resurrected people of God, filled with His Spirit, and meant to carry out the mission of God to the world. The restoration of all things will take place in two ways. Christ will return to judge sin and evil, and He will usher in righteousness and peace. God will purge this world of evil once and for all. [Col 1:15-20; Rev 21:1-5]

THE GOSPEL AT THE MICRO-LEVEL

1. GOD. God is the creator of all things. He is perfectly holy, worthy of all worship, and will punish sin [Gen 1:1, 1 John 1:5, Rev 4:11, Rom 2:5-8].

2. MAN. All people, though created good, have become sinful by nature. From birth, all people are alienated from God, hostile to God, and subject to the wrath of God [Gen 1:26-28, Ps 51:5, Rom 3:23, Eph 2:1-3].

3. JESUS CHRIST. Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to bear God's wrath in the place of all who would believe in him, and rose from the grave in order to give His people eternal life [John 1:1, 1 Tim 2:5, Heb 7:26, Rom 3:21-26, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Cor 15:20-22].

4. RESPONSE. God calls everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and trust in Christ in order to be saved [Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21, Rom 10:9-10].