



Last time we began to look at *the gospel presentation*. A Biblical gospel presentation begins with the character of our Holy God. It then stresses that all men have violated God’s perfect standard of holiness and are now subject to His judgment and wrath. But the gospel does not stop there. That is the bad news. Today we begin to look at the good news. The good news, or “gospel” , can be summarized in two words – Jesus Christ!

First of all, the gospel of Jesus Christ must stress that:

1. **Jesus came to earth as both** _____

His Deity

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world. **15** Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the _____, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Q. Shortly after Paul was saved, he began to preach. According to Acts 9:20, What was his message?

Q. In John 11:26 Jesus told Martha that whoever believes in Him should never die. He then asked her if she believed. Considering her response in v27, what did she understand “belief in Christ” to mean?

Q. According to John 20:31, why did John write his gospel?

Q. According to 1 John 5:5, who overcomes the world?

A belief in the deity of Jesus Christ, that he was fully God and fully man, is essential to the gospel message. Any presentation of the gospel that we give must include this important truth.

His Humanity

Not only was Jesus Christ the son of God, but he was also fully human.

This is the miracle of the *incarnation* (John 1:1-14). It is a difficult truth to grasp but nevertheless it is a clear Biblical truth and essential to the gospel.

Q. According to Philippians 2:6, who is Christ equal with? _____

Q. According to v7, what likeness did he take on? _____

Below are a few reasons why Jesus Christ took on human flesh.

i) So that he could R_____
 Galatians 4:4; Mark 10:45

ii) So that he could become our H_____
 Hebrews 4:15, 2:17; 1 Timothy 2:5-6

iii) So that he could be our E_____
 1 Peter 2:21

iv) So that he could defeat man’s E_____
 (1) _____ 1 Tim 3:5
 (2) _____ 2 Tim 1:9-10
 (3) The _____ Heb 2:14

1
—

2
—

Christ’s preferred title for himself as “son of man”. He used it of himself 32 times in the book of Matthew alone. During his earthly ministry He emphasized both his deity and his humanity. Our gospel presentation should do the same.¹

2. **Jesus died on the cross to** _____ **and to** _____.

This is the climax of the gospel message. Having established that God the Father is the authoritative, holy creator of all. That he holds all men to his perfect standard of holiness. That all men have fallen short and have actually violated his law. That God, being perfectly holy must

¹ For a more in depth look at the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ. Visit <http://rickcowan.com/?p=138> and download lessons #7 and #8.

judge all sin. That all men are now subject to God's wrath. That no man has the power to save himself from God's wrath. We now come to the climax of the gospel message – God has displayed his love by providing His own son as the world's sin-bearer (Rom 5:8).

Q. Jesus Christ is the only one who ever lived without _____. (Heb 4:15; Heb 7:26; 1 Pet 1:18-19).

Christ is absolutely sinless, yet he became sin to pay the penalty of sin on our behalf. He took the guilt of sinners on himself and suffered God's judgment for it on the cross.

This is the only way of reconciliation. Our sins have separated us from God and they need to be eliminated. They were placed upon Jesus Christ and he paid the price for them. Then, by God's grace he not only forgave our sin, but also gave us Christ's righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The substitutionary death was the only way that we could be saved and Jesus Christ was the only one who could have performed it.

Consider memorizing: 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Peter 2:24; Col 2:13

3. Jesus rose _____

Q. Paul summarized his gospel message in 1 Cor 15:3-4, what are the three aspects of it?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is essential to the gospel message. If he did not rise from the dead then he did not defeat sin, death and Satan, he did not provide forgiveness of sins and is actually found to be a liar (1 Cor 15:12-19; Matt 16:21; Matt 26:32; Mark 9:31).

The resurrection assures men that there is a coming _____ (Acts 17:31)

Through the resurrection, Christ is made _____ (Acts 2:32-36)

It is through the resurrection that we are given _____. (1 Pet 1:3; Rom 5:10; Eph 2:6)

Jesus Christ is the son of God who came in the flesh, lived a sinless life, paid for our sins on the cross and three days later rose from the dead². God has now ordained him as Lord and Judge over all men. Once we come to the knowledge of all of these things, what should our response be?

4. You must _____.

Repentance toward God

Q. Look at Mark 1:14-15. What message did Jesus preach?

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: _____

Q. In Acts 17 we see Paul preaching the gospel on Mars Hill. What did he say God commands every man to do? (v29-31)

Q. In Acts 26 Paul is recounting to King Agrippa the events surrounding his conversion. What three things did Paul begin to preach to the Gentiles after he was saved? (Acts 26:20)

Q. In Acts 20, Paul is speaking to the Ephesian elders. How does he summarize the message that he preached? (v21)

It is not enough to believe the facts of the gospel. The devils believe there is one God (James 2:19), they even believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God (Matt 8:29; Mark 3:11; Luke 4:41). They certainly understand that Jesus rose from the dead and that he is Lord of all (Col 1:16, 17). So, are the devils in good standing with God? Of course not! Believing the facts of the gospel does not reconcile us to God, but responding to those facts in repentance does. That is one thing the devils will never do!

² For a more in depth look at the resurrection, visit <http://rickcowan.com/?p=138> and download lesson #14.

Repentance towards God (Acts 20:21) means that, in our hearts, we are turning from our life of rebellion and godlessness to a life of obedience and holiness (Isa 55:6-7; 1 Thess 1:9; Acts 14:15). It is a turning from our position as rebels against God to a position as followers of Christ (Luke 9:23).

Repentance and faith are inseparable. One does not exist without the other. But they are not synonymous. Repentance is the natural response to a belief in the Biblical gospel. (Acts 11:21)

Faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Saviour of all men (Acts 5:31) and for the sake of the redemptive plan, God has put all things under the feet of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the judge. He is the Lord. He will reign until the plan of redemption is absolutely complete (1 Cor 15:24-27; John 3:35; Heb 1:3; Acts 17:31). To have "faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ" is to believe all of the above as "God's record of his son" (1 John 5:10)

If a man sincerely believes the gospel message he will repent toward God. This involves accepting the authority which God the Father has given to the Lord Jesus Christ.

5

Paul summarized this in **Romans 10:9-10**: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth _____, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Having faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour means recognizing that His death alone paid the penalty for sins. Having faith in Him as Lord means believing that by virtue of his resurrection he has become Lord and Judge.

The heartfelt belief that Jesus Christ is Saviour manifests itself in the forsaking of all other means of salvation. The heartfelt belief that Jesus Christ is Lord and Judge manifests itself in the forsaking of all other objects of authority.

Our question for the sinner at this point is "Will you repent and believe?"