

As Of **First**
Importance
Ministries

The
G O S P E L
is
J E S U S
C H R I S T

A Christ-centered summary of the Gospel

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Proclaiming the gospel worthy of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 5

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

According to the Scriptures, Christians should proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone because God DESERVES to be glorified.

- **God deserves:** *John 1:14-18 & Romans 1:15-17 & 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 & Philippians 1:12-21*

NAME

AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE:

The gospel of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-5 & Romans 1:1-17

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.”

According to the Scriptures:

- (1) we **BELIEVE** in the Gospel of God,
- (2) we are **SAVED** through faith in the Gospel,
- (3) we **PREACH** the Gospel, and
- (4) we **STAND** on the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures.

- **First importance** (*protos*): means first in time, space, rank, influence, and honor. It's the same word used for “foremost” in *Mark 12:29-30* when Jesus talked about the foremost commandment and as “first place” in *Colossians 1:13-18*
- **Jesus Christ as first importance in the Scriptures:** *John 5:39-40; John 20:30-31*

- **Gospel:** good news, good tidings, or proclamation of the grace of God. *Acts 20:24*
- **Believe:** to be convinced of, to have confidence in, and to entrust oneself to. *Romans 10:8-17*
- **Saved:** to be delivered/rescued from condemnation and destruction. *Romans 8:1*

Proclaiming the gospel worthy of Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

“This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

According to the Scriptures, Christians should proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone because God DESIRES all to be saved.

- **God desires:** *John 3:16 & 1 John 2:1-2 & 1 John 4:10 & 2 Peter 3:9*

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

“But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

According to the Scriptures, Christians should proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone because God DESTINED some for salvation.

- **God destined:** *Acts 2:37-39 & Acts 13:46-48 & Ephesians 1:3-6 & 2 Timothy 2:8-10*

WHY PREACH THE GOSPEL?

Proclaiming the gospel worthy of Jesus Christ.

John 14:15

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

According to the Scriptures, Christians should proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone because God DESERVES our complete devotion.

- **God deserves:** *Matthew 22:36-38 & 2 Cor 11:3-4 & Ephesians 6:18-24 & Revelation 2:1-7*

Mark 16:15

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

According to the Scriptures, Christians should proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone because God DIRECTS Christians to preach the gospel.

- **God directs:** *John 15:26-27 & Luke 24:4-48 & Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:7-8*

The gospel of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:1-17

“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. 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.”

According to the Scriptures, the gospel of Jesus Christ reveals:

- (1) the righteousness of the GOD WHO saved us,**
- (2) the righteousness of what GOD DID to save us,**
- (3) the righteousness of what GOD DECLARED about our salvation.**

1 Corinthians 15:1-5 & Romans 1:1-17

The most important and ultimate truth in the Scriptures that God is revealing to people is the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ.

The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, for in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. Any person who does not believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures is not saved.

According to the Scriptures, the gospel of Jesus Christ is “as of first importance”. Unity in the gospel of Jesus Christ is essential in the church and the gospel must be the ultimate reason for the unity of the church.

- **Not Saved:** *John 3:16-18, John 3:35-36*
- **Unity:** *John 17:17-23; Ephesians 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 11:1-4; 1 Corinthians 11:18-19*

The gospel of Jesus Christ.

According to the Scriptures, our FAITH in the gospel of Jesus Christ and our PREACHING of the gospel of Jesus Christ must be according to the Bible.

People's beliefs are in vain unless they believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the Word of God or the Scriptures.

Faith according to the Bible: Galatians 1:6-12; Hebrews 1:1-4; Hebrews 2:1-4; 1 Tim. 4:13-16

Therefore, the question is: what is the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures? This study strives to summarize these truths in the gospel of Jesus Christ as of first importance.

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

“... And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

According to the Scriptures, the gospel reveals the GLORY of Jesus Christ. Therefore, to glorify Him must be as of first importance.

The gospel includes these essential truths:

- (1) Jesus Christ the God-Man;
- (2) the death of Jesus Christ;
- (3) the resurrection of Jesus Christ;
- (4) salvation by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit;
- (5) salvation by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

According to the Scriptures.

Romans 1:16-17

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- (1) the righteousness of the GOD WHO saved us,
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WHAT IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST?

According to the Scriptures.

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

“... And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

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- (1) **JESUS CHRIST THE GOD-MAN;**
- (2) **THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST;**
- (3) **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST;**
- (4) **SALVATION BY GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT;**
- (5) **SALVATION BY GOD’S GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE.**

#5: Salvation by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Romans 8 & Philippians 1:27 & Hebrews 13:15 & Titus 3:3-7 & John 10:27-30

“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

According to the Scriptures, the ASSURANCE of a Christian's salvation and eternal life is established on the absolute truth of God's Word;

whereby, God declares that salvation is exclusively by the love, mercy, and grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ alone and that we had nothing to do with it. Since there is nothing we did or can do to earn or deserve salvation then there is nothing we can do to lose it!

Therefore, the only thing Christians should do is continually offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise through Him by:

- (1) LIVING a life worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and
- (2) PROCLAIMING the gospel worthy of Jesus Christ.

#1: Jesus Christ the God-Man.

Mark 10:45 & Philippians 2:5-11

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

According to the Scriptures, Jesus Christ as “the Son of Man” reveals His humility as a HUMAN and His SOVEREIGN Lordship over all to the glory of God the Father.

- **Son of Man:** *Matthew 20:17-19, Matthew 25:31-33, Daniel 7:13-14*

John 1:29 & Revelation 5

“The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

According to the Scriptures, because Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Son of Man, He is the only one WORTHY to fulfill the holy SACRIFICE God required to save mankind from our sins.

- **Son of God and Son of Man worthy to save mankind:** *Matthew 1:21, Matthew 16:13-17*

GOSPEL TRUTH #2:

The death of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8 & 2 Corinthians 5:21 & 1 John 3:16 & Philipians 2:8

“But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

According to the Scriptures, Jesus Christ took the PLACE of us sinners on the cross and died SACRIFICIALLY for the sins of mankind.

- **For:** in behalf of/for the sake of/for the benefit of.

Romans 3:25 & Romans 1:16-17 & Romans 8:1-4 & Isaiah 53 & Matthew 26:26-28

“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.”

According to the Scriptures, the death of Jesus Christ completely satisfied:

- (1) the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of God;
- (2) the **LAW** of God, and
- (3) the **WRATH** of God for the sins of mankind.

- **Atonement:** to cover over. *Exodus 30:10, Hebrews 9:22*
- **Propitiation:** satisfactory sacrifice. *1 John 2:2, 1 John 3:5*
- **Wrath of God:** *Romans 5:9, Hebrews 10:29-31, John 3:34-36, 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10*

#5: Salvation by God’s grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

1 Corinthians 12:3 & John 3:16-19 & Philipians 1:27-30

“Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.”

According to the Scriptures, we were unable to BELIEVE in His gospel, but God chose and gave Christians the FAITH to believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- **God-Given Faith:** *Acts 13:44-48, Romans 10:8-10, Hebrews 11:1-6, Hebrews 12:1-2, Romans 12:1-3*

Ephesians 2:1-9 & John 1:12-13 & Eph. 1:22-23 & 1 Corinthians 6:19 & Eph.4:4-6

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ... For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

According to the Scriptures, entirely by the grace of God alone through faith in Christ alone, Christians are those who have been made alive as:

- (1) **CHILDREN** of the Father,
- (2) the **CHURCH** of Christ, and
- (3) the **TEMPLE** of the Holy Spirit.

- **Children of the Father:** *Galatians 3:26, 2 Corinthians 6:17*
- **Church of Christ:** *Matthew 16:18, Colossians 1:18*
- **Temple of the Holy Spirit:** *1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9*

#5: Salvation by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Ephesians 1:3-6, 2:8-9 & John 3:19-21 & Romans 3:10-18 & John 6:44

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will..."

According to the Scriptures, we all loved DARKNESS and chose to reject God, but God CHOSE Christians and compelled Christians to repent and come to Jesus Christ.

- **God's will:** *James 1:17-18, John 1:12-13, Matthew 11:27-30.*
- **God leads to repentance:** *Romans 3:10-24, 2 Corinthians 7:9-10, Romans 2:4*
- **God's Choice:** *2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, Romans 9:15-24, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, 2 Timothy 2:10, Ephesians 1:3-6, Acts 2:37-39, Acts 13:46-48*

1 Corinthians 2:1-16 & 1 John 5:19-20 & Colossians 1:3-6 & Matthew 13:18-23

"...But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."

According to the Scriptures, we were unable to COMPREHEND His gospel, but God chose and gave Christians the MIND to understand the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- **God-Given Understanding:** *Luke 24:44-48, Romans 3:10-11, 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, Colossians 1:3-7.*

#2: The death of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:10 & 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Luke 24:45-47

"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

According to the Scriptures, the death of Jesus Christ grants forgiveness and RECONCILES sinners with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

- **Reconcile:** return to/restoration of favor or grace
- **Forgiveness:** release from bondage and penalty

Ephesians 1:7-8

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us."

According to the Scriptures, the death of Jesus Christ paid for:

- (1) everyone's DEBT to God's Law,
- (2) His LORDSHIP over all creation, and
- (3) His OWNERSHIP of Christians.

- **Redemption:** release caused by payment.
- **Debt:** *Galatians 4:4-5, Romans 3:23-24, 6:23, 8:1-4*
- **Lordship:** *Romans 14:9, 2 Peter 2:1, Philippians 2:8-11*
- **Ownership:** *1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Titus 2:11-14, Acts 20:28*

GOSPEL TRUTH #3:

The resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23 & Genesis 2:16-17 & Hebrews 7:23-28

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

According to the Scriptures, the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ testifies that He alone can save mankind from God’s spiritual and physical JUDGEMENT for us sinners, which is death or hell.

- **Death as the consequence of sin:** *Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12*
- **Eternally separated from God as eternal punishment for sinners:** *Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10*
- **Eternally in the presence of God through faith in Jesus Christ:** *Romans 8:39, John 11:25-27, John 14:1-6; Revelation 21:1-4*

Romans 4:22-25 & Galatians 2:15-16 & Philippians 3:7-11 & 2 Cor. 5:21 & John 16:8-11

“Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness. Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.”

According to the Scriptures, because Jesus Christ resurrected; sinners are declared RIGHTEOUS by God through faith in Him.

- **Raised:** brought/come back to life.
- **Justification:** to be declared righteous by a judge.
- **Righteous:** to be acceptable to God, approved by God, and right with God.

#5: Salvation by God’s grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 & John 1:4-9, 12:46 & Romans 1:18-21

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

According to the Scriptures, we were all BLINDED to the light of His gospel, but God revealed to all our CONDEMNATION.

- **Jesus is the Light:** *Acts 26:15-18, John 8:12, John 12:46*

Romans 6:23, 3:23 & Matthew 11:28-30

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

According to the Scriptures, we could not ESCAPE our condemnation, but God made SALVATION possible/available for all.

- **World’s Condemnation vs. Salvation in Christ:** *John 3:16, 1 John 2:1-2, Titus 2:11-14, Matthew 11:28-30*

GOSPEL TRUTH #5:

Salvation by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Ephesians 2:1-9 & Romans 5:6-10, 8:1

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ... For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

According to the Scriptures, Christians are saved ENTIRELY by the grace of God alone through faith in Christ alone because we were DEAD in our sins (helpless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies).

- **Dead:** destitute of power or spiritually dead.
- **Helpless:** without strength before God.
- **Ungodly:** dishonoring to God.
- **Sinners:** devoted to evil.
- **Enemies:** hostile to God.
- **Saved:** to rescue or deliver from destruction/condemnation.
- **Grace:** undeserved or unmerited favor
- **Faith:** conviction or faithfulness to the truth
- **Salvation by God alone:** *Colossians 1:13-14, John 1:12-13, 2 Timothy 1:8-9.*

#3: The resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:15-16 & John 1:12-13

“You have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.”

According to the Scriptures, because Jesus Christ resurrected; sinners are ADOPTED as God's children through faith in Him.

- **Adoption:** *John 1:12-13; Galatians 3:26-29, 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:3-6; 1 John 3:1-2; John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 2:11*

Acts 26:17-18 & Colossians 1:13-14

“To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”

According to the Scriptures, because Jesus Christ resurrected; Christians are SET APART to God through faith in Him.

- **Sanctified:** to be set apart by God to God. *1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:10-11, John 17:17-21*

#3: The resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 & 5:21-24

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification... For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.”

According to the Scriptures, because Jesus Christ resurrected; the will of God for Christians is SANCTIFICATION through faith in Him.

- **Sanctification:** purification, or to be purified by God. *2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, 1 Peter 1:1-2 & 14-16, Hebrews 12:4-10, Philipians 1:6*

Romans 8:11-18 & Ephesians 1:18-23 & 2:4-7 & John 11:25-26

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God and if children, heirs also of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”

According to the Scriptures, because Jesus Christ resurrected; upon His Second Coming, Christians will be glorified with Him SPIRITUALLY and PHYSICALLY through faith in Him.

- **Glorified:** to be honored together or to approve/rule together. *Philipians 3:20-21, Colossians 3:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Acts 1:7-11*

GOSPEL TRUTH #4:

Salvation by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 4:5-8 & Romans 11:33 & Isaiah 55:8-9 & Deuteronomy 29:29

“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, Who was and Who is and Who is to come.”

Romans 10:8-18 & John 20:30-31

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.”

According to the Scriptures, God is holy and beyond understanding; however, God has made known in His Word what a person must BELIEVE.

- **Holy:** to be transcendent or set above.
- **Faith:** conviction of the truth. *Romans 1:18-20; Hebrews 1:1-2; John 5:39-40; 14:25-26, 16:13-14*

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

“We know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.”

According to the Scriptures, we must believe in the gospel of God, and that there is only ONE true God:

- (1) the FATHER,
- (2) the SON, and
- (3) the HOLY SPIRIT.

- **One God:** *Deuteronomy 4:35-39, Isaiah 45:5-6, Mark 12:29-30*
- **The Father is God:** *John 20:17, 1 John 1:3, 2 Peter 1:17, 1 Timothy 1:2*
- **The Son is God:** *Titus 2:13, John 5:16-18, 2 Peter 1:1, Hebrews 1:5-13, Revelation 22:12-13*
- **The Holy Spirit is God:** *1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Mark 3:28-29, John 14:16-17, Acts 5:1-4*

#4: Salvation by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:34-44

“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power... this is the one who has been appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead, of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

According to the Scriptures, Christians are SAVED by the grace of the one true God through faith in Jesus Christ, the Anointed One of the Father with the Holy Spirit.

- **Christ:** the anointed one or divinely elected one. *1 Corinthians 15:1-5, Matthew 3:13-17, Isaiah 42:1*
- **Anointed:** to be given a special task by God. *Matthew 1:18-23, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 1:26-35, John 1:29-34*

Titus 3:4-7 & John 3:16 & 1 John 3:16 & John 16:7-11

“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

According to the Scriptures, Christians are SAVED by God the Father, by God the Son, and by God the Holy Spirit.