



Getting the Gospel: Justification

Gospel: Matthew 1:1; Mark 1:1, 14-15; 1 Cor 15:1-5

Justified: Romans 3:22-24, 5:1, 8-11; Titus 3:4-8

Response: Matt 16:15-16; Romans 10:8-10, 13; Rev 3:20

OPEN

How have you understood the “gospel” before this sermon series? What is there to understand/know? What is a person to do with the gospel?

DISCUSS

As we begin this series, we consider the shift in the gospel focus over the course of church history. The gospel began with a core focus on Jesus and the Kingdom of God that has come now into our world. Today, the focus of the gospel is often on personal salvation (consider the gospel tracts that circulate today).

- Consider these verses: Matthew 1:1; Mark 1:1, 14-15; 1 Cor 15:1-5. What do you learn?
- Do think a shift has been made from the Jesus and the early church and how we understand the gospel today?

How would you explain the difference between *being saved so I can go to heaven* and *following Jesus*? Are they the same, different, or have anything in common?

GETTING THE GOSPEL

The gospel is dynamic with several realities happening and working together. Like an MRI, the gospel can be thought of a ONE reality that contains several dimensions (or images). In Dan Meyer’s book *Witness Essentials*, he describes the gospel phenomena in acrostic form:

Get right with God (*Justification*)

Overcome Your Character Flaws (*Sanctification*)

Set Your Course By Reliable Truth (*Revelation: Bible and Holy Spirit*)

Participate in Renewing This World (*Redemption and Reconciliation*)

Enjoy Life Beyond Death (*Resurrection*)

Love with the Greatest Love of All (*Glorification*)

How does understanding the gospel this way change or impact how you have previously thought about the gospel?

The **first step** in experiencing the fullness of the gospel is to **get right with God—Justification**.

- Read the following verses: Romans 3:22-24, 5:1, 8-11; Titus 3:4-8
- What do you learn about justification?

To be right with God can be as easy as A, B, C. Have you responded to God's grace by:

Acknowledging your sin and separation from God as well as your desire to belong to Him?

Believing that Jesus' death and resurrection covers the gap for you? Do you believe that you can be united with Jesus...that his life can become your life?

Committing to following Jesus for life?

Why are all three of the A, B, C's important to the gospel?

NEXT STEPS

- The gospel always demands a response. As you consider the gospel, how are led to respond:
 - Gratitude for this reality in your life?
 - Admitting you are moving toward Jesus, but have not committed your life to him?
 - Confessing for the first time that you are committing your life to Jesus (Romans 9:8-10)?
- Share your response with someone this week.