

# Go and Tell – The Person and Work of Jesus

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## Recap and Intro

We are up to our third point in our four-point Gospel outline. We've discussed the sinfulness of man – we don't just make little mistakes, we are wretched rebels and enemies of God – and the character of God – He is our Creator so we belong to Him, He is our Judge so we are accountable to Him, He is our Savior so we need Him. That brings us to this week's point which is the person and work of Jesus. This is the true "Good News" part of the Gospel message that we have been given to share. This is what we long to tell everyone. That being said, it is very important not to rush to this point because as we discussed the first week, if people don't understand the bad news, the Good News will seem foolish and offensive to them. Hopefully you all have taken some time to think through what we've discussed the last couple of weeks though and are ready to hear the greatest news ever.

To lead up to that, I want to back up and touch quickly on a passage that we read last week, but just skimmed over. This is a great recap of what we've talked about and sets us up perfectly for where we are going today:

**Romans 3:19-26** "19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

God gave us His Law so that we can see ourselves as He sees us. The Law, when used properly, shows us our guilt before God and leaves us with no defense. We can do nothing but put our hand on our mouth and wait quietly for God to give us what we deserve which He must do to remain holy and just. "But now" (vs 21) God has made a way that He can be just and make us right with Him. He has made a way to punish our sin like He must do and yet make us righteous before Him. He sent Jesus.

## Who Is Jesus? (Romans 1:1-4)

- He is 100% God (the Second Person of the Trinity) and 100% man (born of a virgin mother by the Holy Spirit).
- If He was not God, He would not have been able to keep the Law so He would have had to pay for His own sins.
- If He was not man, He would not have been able to pay the penalty owed by man and only payable by man.

**Romans 1:1-4** "1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,"

## Jesus' Life (Romans 5:12-21)

- Jesus came to live a life of complete obedience to the entire Law of God so that He could be an acceptable sacrifice to God for our sin and provide for us the life of perfect righteousness that first Adam and then we failed to live.
- He did not come as our example, He came as our substitute.

**Romans 5:19** “For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.”

**Romans 5:12-21** “**12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— **13** for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. **14** Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

**15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. **16** And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. **17** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

**18** Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. **19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. **20** Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21** so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

## Jesus' Death (Romans 5:6-11)

- Jesus death on the cross only means anything because of His life.
- On the cross, God poured out His wrath on Jesus as if He had committed every sin committed by everyone who would ever believe when in fact He had committed none of them.
- Jesus drank every drop from the cup of God's wrath for those who will be saved so that there is none left for them.

“The concept of propitiation harkens back to the *propitiatory*, also known as the mercy seat – names given to the cover of the ark of the covenant into which the Law of Moses had been deposited. The propitiatory was sprinkled with the blood of the sin sacrifice on the annual Day of Atonement. This was the heart of the old covenant provision for sin. The symbolism can be seen in this: the ark contained the law, and the propitiatory covered its curse whenever it was sprinkled by the atoning blood. So Paul's use of the word propitiation connotes the appeasing of God's wrath by sacrificial blood. The old covenant propitiatory, therefore, foreshadowed the true propitiation – Christ – who would personally and forever exhaust the divine wrath at the appointed time.

But there is yet more rich symbolism represented by the mercy seat. Not only did it serve as the Old Testament place of atonement, it was also considered to be God's throne in the midst of his people (Ps. 80:1). It was the place of his divine presence, where the glory of the Lord abided. This shows that once the blood of Christ propitiates our sin, redeemed sinners are able to enjoy restored personal relationship with their holy God.” – Jerry Bridges

“The law of God was more vindicated by the death of Christ than it would have been had all transgressors been sent to hell.” – Charles Spurgeon

**Romans 5:6-11** “**6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we

were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

## **Jesus’ Resurrection (Romans 4:25; 6:1-11)**

- After three days, God raised Jesus back to life as proof that He had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf.
- Jesus defeated death and was exalted to sit at the right hand of God where He intercedes for believers.

“The Old Testament people of Israel waited anxiously while the high priest was within the veil. If God rejected their offering, the priest and the people could well be consumed. There was relief and rejoicing when the high priest reappeared, because it signified that God accepted the sprinkled blood atonement, assuring His holy wrath had been set aside. The correlate in the great atonement was the bodily resurrection of Christ, proof that all was indeed finished, as He said with His dying breath (John 19:30). His resurrection is proof that satisfaction for sin was paid in full; divine wrath was exhausted, justice was fulfilled, forgiveness was granted, and relationship was restored.

If Christ’s work of atonement had been imperfect or lacking in any way, the resurrection of Jesus would not have taken place. Had we not been justified (declared righteous), Christ the wrath bearer would not have been released from the clutches of death because the price for the sins He bore would remain, having not yet have been paid in full. But the historic, bodily resurrection of Christ after His atoning death on the cross stands as final, authoritative proof that Christ’s work of redemption is forever acceptable and complete. God’s justice is perfectly satisfied, His wrath is absolutely quenched, all our sins are entirely atoned for, Christ’s righteousness is credited to us, and, as sinners united to Christ by faith, we are fully and forever accepted by God.” – Jerry Bridges

**Romans 4:25** “who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

**Romans 6:1-11** “**1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

More on this next week...

## **The Great Exchange**

- The Good News of the Gospel is that we can be united to Christ and receive the benefits of His life, death, and resurrection.

Here is a great summary of the Gospel that we have the privilege to Go and Tell from Jerry Bridges’ *The Great Exchange*:

- *We are sinners before a holy God.* We are doubly defiled. First, we are born with a sinful nature like everyone descended from Adam, and, second, we personally commit sin every time we break one of God’s commandments.

God is holy and therefore His justice must be served. To overlook His justice would be to undermine His holiness, and that is simply not a possibility. Thus, as guilty sinners, we stand condemned, under God's curse, subject to His wrath, and destined to receive the inevitable penalty required by God's law – the punishment of eternal death. Furthermore, there is no hope of redeeming ourselves because there is nothing we can do to make ourselves undefiled or to erase as much as a single sin. In the face of our dire condition as sinners, God planned and acted unilaterally to redeem all those united to Christ by the Gospel of grace. Instead of getting what we deserved, we get this good news in its place.

- *God charged our sin to the sinless Christ.* Our sin, along with its condemnation, penalty, curse, and shame is no longer charged to us but to our sin-bearing substitute. The entire wrath of God that we deserve was duly spent, but it was spent on Christ. None of the punishment we deserve from God for our sin is left for us to bear because He bore it all.
- *God credits us with Christ's sinlessness.* Jesus Christ lived a sinless life in a human body, and His obedience is counted as our obedience. In other words, He obeyed in our place and His perfect righteousness is credited to us. Therefore, in God's holy eyes we are already as holy as Christ Himself.
- *God's law is doubly satisfied on our behalf.* We who are represented by Jesus Christ in His substitutionary atonement have met the demands of the law in two ways. First, the penalty for our sin required by the law was paid in full by the perfect sacrificial death of our sin bearer. Second, the Sinless One supplied us with the perfect righteousness required by the law, a righteousness we desperately needed in order to be accepted by God. Thus, we are declared not guilty and counted righteous, as though we had never sinned, and as though we had personally performed all of Christ's obedience.
- *We share in our sin-bearing substitute's reward.* As our substitute, Christ lived the way we should have lived – obediently – and received what we deserved – death. In our union with Christ, redeemed sinners received what only He deserved – God Himself, including His acceptance, favor, and blessing whereby He welcomes us into His family and forever treats us as His own adopted sons and daughters.

## Go and Tell Application

### What Does Jesus Offer?

“The tragedy of modern evangelism is that, around the turn of the twentieth century, the church forsook the Law in its capacity to convert the soul and drive sinners to Christ. Modern evangelism therefore had to find another reason for sinners to respond to the Gospel, and the reason it chose was the issue of “life enhancement.” The Gospel degenerated into “Jesus Christ will give you peace, joy, love, fulfillment, and lasting happiness.” Something like this is usually said, “You will never find true happiness until you come to the Lord. You have a “God-shaped vacuum” in your heart that only He can fill. God will heal your marriage and take away that addiction problem. He'll get you out of financial difficulty and be your best friend.” – Ray Comfort

- Salvation is not an issue of happiness; it is an issue of righteousness. It doesn't matter how happy a sinner is; without the righteousness of Christ, he will perish on the day of wrath.
- Peace and joy are legitimate fruits of salvation, but it's not legitimate to use these fruits as a drawing card for salvation. If we do so, the sinner will respond with an impure motive, lacking repentance, without which they cannot be saved.
- Jesus never offered the kind of life enhancement that is presented by so many so-called “evangelists” today. In reality, He promised the exact opposite for His followers.
- What Jesus does offer is so much more amazing than anything that we could ever receive in this life. He has fulfilled our greatest need – He has given us release from sin and death, peace with God, and eternal life with Him. How can we not share that with everyone we possibly can?