

What is the Good News?

God is the Loving and Just Creator

*The Gospel Summarized: **God, Man, Christ, Response**ⁱ*

*The Gospel Defined: **We are accountable to the God who created us.** And yet, we have all sinned against that God and will, therefore, be rightly judged by Him. But God has acted in Jesus Christ to save us, and we receive that salvation by repentance from sin and faith in Jesus' work on our behalf.*

I. We can know God in part (Psalm 145).

*(Psalm 145 ESV)*¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ²Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. ³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. ⁴One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. ⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. ¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, ¹²to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] ¹⁴The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. ¹⁸The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. ²¹My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

"The proper study of God's... (people) is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father." J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

II. God is sovereign (1 Chronicles 29:10-12).

*(1 Chronicles 29:10-12 ESV)*¹⁰Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹²Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

III. The infinite and sovereign God is also the Creator (Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Psalm 19:1; John 1:3; Rom 1:18-20; 1 Corinthians 15:28).

*(Genesis 1:1 ESV)*¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

*(Genesis 1:26-27 ESV)*²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

*(Psalm 19:1 ESV)*¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

*(John 1:3 ESV)*³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

*(Romans 1:18-20 ESV)*¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

*(1 Corinthians 15:28 ESV)*²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Discerning a False Gospel

It is not the Gospel...

1. If it says that Jesus is anything less than fully God, man, Savior, Lord, and the Way.
2. If it makes you responsible for your salvation.
3. If it suggests that, there is some way in addition to or instead of Jesus to be right with God.
4. If it says that the purpose of salvation is to give you your best possible life today.
5. If it focuses on human beings rather than Christ.

¹ *What is the Gospel*, by Greg Gilbert