

But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love for mankind-- for the world-- sent Christ (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). Jesus, truly God and truly man, lived a perfect life, fulfilling the law which we broke, being absolutely perfect (John 1:1, 14; 8:58, 20:28; Matthew 3:15; 5:17). Then, he willingly laid his life down as a ransom for our sin-debt before God (Colossians 2:13-14). Upon the cross, Jesus bore the wrath of almighty God that we deserve to poured out on us for all eternity in hell, and he fully satisfied God's justice (Isaiah 53:10). We broke the Law of God, Jesus paid our fine-- our bail, our debt. Then, three days later, Christ rose from the grave, forever defeating death as the Resurrection and the Life and he is alive today, reigning as the King, the King of Glory (Romans 4:25; Luke 24:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; John 11:25; Revelation 19:11-16; Psalm 24). And he will continue to reign until all his enemies are put under his feet (Psalm 110:1).

In light of the gospel, you must repent and believe (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21). "Repent" means "to change one's mind". You must change your mind about your sin, judgment, Christ, and God. You must deny yourself and die *to* self, take up your cross and come after Jesus, for he is worthy (Luke 9:23-26; Revelation 5:12). And, you must believe. That is, simply take God at his word, and believe the good news of Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection (Genesis 15:4; Romans 4:3; 3:28; 5:1; Galatians 3:26; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8). You hope for salvation must be in Christ alone, and not in yourself (Proverbs 28:26; Galatians 2:21; Romans 4:5). If you do this-- rest in Christ alone-- you shall have life everlasting (Matthew 11:28-30; John 3:26). You will be forgiven of all your sins because of the cross (Matthew 26:28; Luke 24:47; Acts 10:43), and credited with having lived Jesus' perfect life, clothed in his own righteousness (Philippians 3:8-11; Romans 5:10; Jeremiah 23:6; Romans 4:5). You will be perfect in the eyes of God, not because you did anything, but because Christ did it all (Hebrews 10:14; 1 Corinthians 8:6). In light of this grace, there is truly one acceptable response: to Him be all glory, honor, and praise forevermore, amen (Revelation 7:12; Romans 11:33-36).

But, my friends, if you reject this, there is no hope for you, but you shall be eternally damned in hell. Please repent and believe the gospel of Christ today, before it is too late.

I will leave off with these words from the author of the Book of Hebrews, "how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3).

I'm grateful to know that almost all of you under my care have to come the place of repentance and faith in Christ for your redemption. I urge you, though, to reread these precious words, examine the scripture references which I have put throughout the article. Meditate upon those verses. Let your heart become enthralled with the gospel! Surely then will you lead a holy life.

I eagerly look forward to seeing you all this Lord's Day, and even more so as we get closer to being able to gather in our meetinghouse again, face to face.

Joyfully treasuring the gospel,
Pastor Lucas
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*Rooted in trust and hope in the Lord.
Branching out in ministry and service in our community.
– Jeremiah 17:7-8*

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A Refresher on the Gospel

Brothers and sisters, I wanted to take the opportunity, via this article, to remind you of what is at the heart of our religion. It is my prayer for each and every one of you be transformed by the power of the good news, the message I so dearly love. This is the message which men and women throughout the ages have given their lives for, and it is the one that "was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 1:3). This gospel which I will bring to your attention throughout these pages is the one which has been carried through the halls of history by the blood-stained hands of the saints. From the Reformers to the early church martyrs, this has always been at the center point of church history. Every time there has been a genuine, Holy Spirit-led revival it has always been because this truth was proclaimed and believed. John Calvin put it very well when he wrote, "Without the gospel everything is useless and vain". How true that is. What else is worth living for than this truth of God's amazing grace revealed to us in Christ?

This message is the very one "into which angels long to look." (1 Peter 1:12). Indeed, the very angles who are currently in presence of God, worshipping him day and night, *long to behold* the glories of the gospel of salvation. That is really what we will be doing in this brief article: looking and gazing at the truths of the biblical, soul-saving, justifying, sanctifying, Christ-centered, grace-exalting, precious, powerful, majestic, life-changing, church-building, pride-destroying, eternal, God-glorifying gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dear friends, the Word of God clearly speaks to the holiness and righteousness of God (Leviticus 11:44), and his having to punish sinners (Exodus 34:7). He has put fourth his Law, condemning lying, thievery, idolatry, sexual immorality, and other things (Exodus 20:1-17), things which you yourselves committed. You all are, therefore, outside of Christ, condemned to eternal hell, and the wrath of God abides on you (Matthew 5:21-22; John 3:36; Matthew 25:46). You cannot by your own efforts make yourself right with God, but are totally hopeless (Romans 3:20; 28).

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