

6/4/2023

# “The Glory of the Gospel”

(II Corinthians 5:17-21)

**Introduction** – There should always be **Clarity** and no **Confusion** over the **Message** and the **Meaning** of the Gospel.

**Illustration** – Some things are easy to get confused (Directions or we can often Mis-read Instructions)

**Note:** Paul spent much of his ministry *Defining, Defending,* and *Declaring* the Gospel!

(Read **I Corinthians 15:1-5** and **Galatians 1:8**)

## I. The **Inclusive** Nature of the Gospel.

**Note:** The emphasis on the words “If any man” or “whosoever” in the Scripture is very significant in verse 17.

(Read **John 3:16** and **Romans 10:13**)

**Old Hymn** – “I Will Arise and Go to Jesus” (read lyrics and chorus)

**Illustration** – Story of sinners coming to Jesus (Woman at the Well in John 4; the Leper in Luke 5)

Read **Luke 15:1-3**

## II. The **Relational** Nature of the Gospel.

**Note:** See Paul’s emphasis on being “In Christ” – his favorite definition of the Christian life.

**Illustration** – the Christian Faith is unlike all other world religions. Others emphasize “working your way up to God.” (Islam and Scales of good deeds and bad deeds) – Only in Christianity do we see God coming down to man!

(Read **John 1:14**) – “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us...”

## III. The **Transformational** Nature of the Gospel.

**Note:** See Paul’s emphasis of being a “new creation” – old things have passed away and all things have become new!

**Illustration** – sharing my testimony of salvation as a young boy and also of my Father’s conversion to Christ from a background of alcoholism, anger, and bitterness.

**Question:** Who do I know that is **Near** to me, but **Far** from God?

**Invitation** – a Great day to “Come to Jesus” – emphasis on any person being “in Christ” and having a brand new start.

**Prayer Cards** – Come during invitation and get a card to write down a person’s name to begin praying for them to come to know Jesus. (I bring these and will place them down front)

## 「福音的榮耀」 (哥林多後書 5:17-21)

引言：對於福音的信息和意義應該保持清晰而不要有混淆。

例證：有些東西很容易產生混淆 (方向或是我們經常錯誤理解說明)

注意：保羅在他的事工中大部分時間都在定義、捍衛和宣告福音！

(閱讀哥林多前書 15:1-5 和加拉太書 1:8)

### I. 福音的包容性

注意：在第 17 節中，聖經中對「若有人」或「凡是」這兩個用詞的強調非常重要。

(閱讀約翰福音 3:16 和羅馬書 10:13)

傳統聖詩：「我要起來歸向耶穌」 (朗讀歌詞)

例證：罪人來到耶穌面前的故事 (約翰福音 4 章井邊的婦人；路加福音 5 章大麻風病人)

閱讀路加福音 15:1-3

注意：請參閱保羅對「在基督裡」的強調。那是他對基督徒生命最喜歡使用的定義。

例證：基督信仰不同於世界上所有其他宗教。其他宗教強調「努力走向神」。(伊斯蘭教和善惡天平)。我們只有在基督信仰中才看到神降臨到人間！

(閱讀約翰福音 1:14) 道成了肉身，住在我們中間...。

### 三. 福音的變革性

注意：請看保羅強調成為「新造的人」。舊事已過，都變成新的了！

例證：分享我小時候的得救見證，以及我父親從酗酒、憤怒和苦毒的背景中歸信基督的見證。

問題：有誰和我的關係很親近，但卻離神很遠？

邀請：這是「歸向耶穌」的好日子。強調任何人「在基督裡」會有一個全新的開始。

禱告卡：在呼召時邀請人到前面來拿一張卡片，填寫名字，開始為他們認識耶穌而禱告。(我帶一些卡片來，把它們放在前面)