

Session 3: Hopeful Evangelism and The Gospel in Scripture

1 Introduction

1.1 Happy Mother's Day!

1.2 Reflection

- The gospel is news, news about what?
- Is this news an invitation to respond?
- If so, what are we inviting them to?

1.3 Resources:

- Sam Chan "Evangelism in a skeptical world"
- Jerram Barrs "The Heart of Evangelism"
- Tim Keller "Center Church..."

1.4 Review

- Why this Class?
- What Evangelism is and What it is not.
- What Evangelism is not
- Evangelism is for all Christians.
- Why Evangelize?
- The Holy Spirit
- Prayer

2 Overview: Getting the Gospel Right

- Truncated Gospel
 - I Sin → Jesus saves → Heaven or Hell
 - What's the issue with that definition?
- The Full Gospel
 - Creation (**Genesis 1:31, Romans 1:20**)
 - Fall (Romans 1:18-21)
 - Redemption (Romans 3:21-23)
 - Response Acts 2:37-38,42-44
- Why The Full Gospel?

Gospel Metaphors

3 What Are We Offering?

- Video: The Sixth Sense, <https://youtu.be/Qj0JDnQIZf0?si=ORI8SFf5j6jQVy3y>
- The State of the Unbeliever
- Believing in Christ takes a miracle!

4 The Gospel in the Bible

- John 3 (religious Jews)
- John 4 (outcast sinners)
- Timothy (His mom and grandma taught him)
- Acts 2 (Jews)
- Acts 17 (Gentiles)

5 Gospel Metaphors

- **Justification**
- **Redemption**
- **Adoption (familial metaphor)**. approval.
- **New Creation**
- **Union with Christ**
- See Handout

6 Activity: Meet them where they are

7 Conclusion

Gospel Metaphors

Justification- legal metaphor-Jesus is how a righteous God can relate to unrighteous people — by making us righteous. **It deals with acceptance**¹

Redemption (slavery and sacrificial metaphors)- In Jesus our incurable sinful status is uniquely cured — by absorbing our sin and death sentence. In Jesus, our incurable sinful status is uniquely cured — he absorbs our sin and dies our death. **It deals with guilt.**

Adoption (familial metaphor). This gospel metaphor changes our familial status before God, rescuing us out of Satan’s family as “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3) and relocating us in the Father’s family as “children of God” (1 John 3:1). This, too, happens through Jesus: “In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith” (Galatians 3:26). In Christ, we are adopted out of the satanic family into God’s family. **It deals with approval.**

New Creation (life and death metaphors). If justification changes our legal standing and adoption changes our familial status, then the new creation changes our spiritual nature. The language of the new creation speaks to matters of life and death. Though we are “dead in our trespasses,” God makes us “alive together with Christ” (Ephesians 2:5). In Christ, the old nature is gone, and a new nature has come — through his resurrection life. In Jesus, the old life is exiled, and a new life introduced — through his resurrection life. **It deals with new life.**

Union with Christ (body-marriage metaphors)- category of gospel metaphors serve as the integrating image by which we grasp the significance of all others. Faith “in Christ” is the spiritual key that unlocks the storehouse of gospel riches — most of which is intimate relationship with Christ himself. **It deals with intimacy and love.**

| God | Sin or Sinful State | Correct Response |
|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Creator | Idolatry | Worship |
| King | Rebellion | Repentance and submission |
| Holy | Impurity | Purity |
| Judge | Transgression | Righteousness |
| Savior | Self-righteousness | Calling on his name |
| Father | Broken relationship | Becoming a child of God |
| Groom | Unfaithfulness | Faithfulness |
| Shepherd | Wandering | Following |

¹ Dodson, Jonathan K. The Unbelievable Gospel: Say Something Worth Believing (p.129-130).

| Sin or Sinful State | Correct Response | Blessings |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Transgression, guilt, rebellion, disobedience | Faith and obedience | Justification, forgiveness |
| Falling short | Calling on God's name | Reconciliation |
| Captivity | Serving Jesus | Redemption, liberation |
| Blindness | Recognizing our blindness | Illumination |
| Deadness | Recognizing our deadness | Regeneration, life |
| Enemy of God | Ceasing our hostilities | Peace, reconciliation |
| Not a child of God | Repentance, returning | Adoption, reconciliation |
| Uncleanness, impurity | Recognizing our uncleanness | Sanctification, purification |
| Separation | Returning | Union |
| Idolatry | Worshiping God | God's favor |
| Shamefulness | Honoring God | Restoration, face |
| Wandering, erring, going astray | Walking in God's ways | Being on the correct path, wisdom |
| Wickedness | Godliness | Godly flourishing |

| Jesus | Sin or Sinful State | Correct Response |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Creator | Idolatry | Worship |
| King, Messiah, Christ | Rebellion | Repentance and submission |
| Holy, Priest | Impurity | Purity |
| Judge | Transgression | Righteousness |
| Savior | Self-righteousness | Calling on his name |
| Groom | Unfaithfulness | Faithfulness |
| Shepherd | Wandering | Following |
| Living Water | Thirsting | Drinking |
| Living Bread | Starving | Eating |
| The Way | Wandering | Following |
| The Truth | Falsehood | Believing |
| The Life | Death | Living |
| The Vine | Nonparticipation | Participation, union |
| Light | Blindness | Illumination |
| Word | Deafness | Hearing |

² Chan, Sam. *Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News about Jesus More Believable* (p. 69-72). Zondervan.