

Gospel in Context Outline¹

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May God bless you as you seek to be faithful in presenting the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in its biblical context.

I. Understanding God—Part 1: A Few Specific Attributes

- A. There is no one like the one true God—Deut. 4:35; Ps. 86:8, 10; Isa. 40:18, 25–26; 44:6–7a; 46:5, 9.
- B. He is triune (three distinct persons, of one substance, different in function)—Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:1, 14; 5:18; 10:30; Acts 5:3–4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Col. 2:9; 1 Thess. 1:2–5; 1 Peter 1:2.
- C. He is the creator, and he is personal —Gen. 1:26; Ps. 95:6–7; 100:3; Isa. 44:24; John 16:14; 17:1, 4, 22–26; Acts 17:24–25; Col. 1:16–17 (“through him and for him.”)
- D. He is almighty and sovereign—Deut. 32:39; Ps. 24:1–2; 47:7–8; 103:19; 135:5–6; Isa. 46:9–11; Rom. 1:20; 8:28–29.
- E. He is eternal—Isa. 57:15; Col. 1:16–20; Jude 24–25.
- F. He is righteous and holy—1 Sam. 2:2; Ps. 5:4; Isa. 6:3; Hab. 1:13; 1 Peter 1:14–16; 1 John 1:5; Rev. 4:8.
- G. He is just—Deut. 32:4; Ps. 9:7–8; 89:14; Acts 17:31; Gal. 3:10; 1 Peter 3:18.

II. Understanding Man as Originally Created before the Fall

- A. Created in God’s image to worship God, delight in him, reflect his glory, live for his advantage, and proclaim his majesty—Deut. 10:12–13; Ps. 16:11; 73:25–26; Isa. 43:6–7; Col. 1:16–18.
- B. Created to be loved, cared for, blessed by, taught by, satisfied by, and comforted by God, and to walk with him—Gen. 1:27–30; 2:15–17; 3:8; Ex. 6:7; Deut. 4:20; Ps. 100:3; 107:8–9; Isa. 30:18; 43:4; Ezek. 14:11; John 4:24; 14:22–23; Titus 2:14.

III. Understanding Sin—Breaking or Not Keeping God’s Law

- A. Sin began with Satan in heaven—Gen. 3:1–15; Isa. 14:12; Luke 10:18; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.
- B. Sin on earth began with Adam and has been passed to all mankind—Gen. 2:17–18; 3:1–7; Rom. 3:23; 5:12, 18.
- C. We are responsible individually for choosing to sin—Eccl. 7:20; Isa. 53:6; Ezek. 18:2, 20; Rom. 3:23; Gal. 3:10; Eph. 2:1–3.
- D. Sin separates—Gen. 3:8–24; Isa. 53:6a; 59:2; Titus 3:3.

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E. God's wrath is upon all the unsaved—Ps. 5:4; Prov. 15:8–9; John 3:36; Rom. 1:18.

F. Death, judgment, and hell are the results of our sin—Ex. 34:6–7; Ps. 7:11; Matt. 10:28; 13:38–42, 49–50; 25:31–46; Acts 17:30; Rom. 6:23; Gal. 3:10; 1 Thess. 1:10; Heb. 9:27; 10:26–27; Rev. 20:11–15.

G. Mankind has been totally depraved since the fall of Adam—Jer. 17:9–10; Rom. 3:10–18; Eph. 2:1–3; 4:17–19; Titus 3:3.

IV. Understanding Our Hopelessness apart from God's Grace

A. Not by nature can we be righteous—Isa 53:6; Isa. 64:6; John 1:13; Rom. 3:10–18.

B. Not by works—Eph. 2:8–9; Phil. 3:1–10; Titus 3:4–7; James 2:10; Isa 64:6.

C. Not by heritage or lineage—John 1:13; Phil. 3:4–7.

D. Not by our own will—John 1:12–13; 6:44, 65; Phil. 3:9.

E. Our debt is insurmountable—Ps. 130:3; Matt. 18:21–35; Luke 7:40–50.

F. No hope—Rom. 2:2–3; Gal. 3:10, 22–24; Eph. 2:12; Phil. 3:1–10; Col. 3:5–6; 1 Thess. 4:13.

V. Understanding God—Part 2: More Specific Attributes²

A. He is merciful and compassionate—Ex. 33:19; Ps. 36:5; 145:8–9; Isa. 63:9; Lam. 3:31–33; John 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:3; 1 John 4:8.

B. He is all-wise—Isa. 55:8; Rom. 11:33–34.

C. He is gracious in two ways:

1. His common goodness—Matt. 5:43–48; Rom. 2:4.

2. His salvific (saving) grace for the elect—John 6:37, 44, 65; Rom. 9:15–16; Eph. 1:3–6; 2:4–7; 1 Thess. 1:4.

D. He is angry with the wicked, yet loving at the same time—Ps. 5:4; Prov. 15:8–9; John 3:16; 1 John 3:16; 4:8–10; Mark 10:17–22.

VI. Understanding the Incarnation

A. The God-man—John 1:1, 14; Mark 10:45; Phil. 2:5–11.

B. Jesus' life: 100 percent righteous—2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15.

C. Jesus' death: paid in full for our sin; removed God's wrath; imputed Christ's righteousness for believers—Rom. 5:19; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13–14; 1 Peter 3:18.

D. God the Father was satisfied with Christ's death—Isa. 53:10–11.

E. Jesus' resurrection: power over death and hope to come—1 Cor. 15:3–4; 1 Peter 1:3–5.

² These are only a sampling of the attributes of God. For further reading, see Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991).

- F. God offers reconciliation by grace through faith in Christ—Acts 17:30–31; Rom. 6:23; 10:13; 2 Cor. 5:18–19; Eph. 2:13.
- G. God declares believers to be justified through Christ—Rom. 3:24–26.
- H. God offers forgiveness of sins and heaven to believers only through Jesus—John 14:1–6; Acts 4:12; Col. 2:13.
- I. God seeks worshipers and a people for himself through Jesus—Isa. 45:22; John 4:23; Eph. 1:4.
- VII. Understanding Saving Faith (“believing”)—John 1:12; 3:16
- A. The knowledge (content) of the gospel, with Jesus as the object of faith—John 17:3; Heb. 6:4; 10:26; James 2:19.
- B. The agreement (intellectual assent) with the gospel facts—Matt. 13:20; John 6:44, 65; Acts 26; Heb. 6:4; James 2:19.
- C. A personal transfer of reliance from oneself to Jesus alone for justification—Isa. 55:6–7; Matt. 13:23; Luke 14:25–33; John 14:21; Acts 3:19; 11:18; 2 Cor. 5:15; Phil. 3:9; 1 Thess. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:25–26). This involves godly sorrow and repentance for all sin, an about-face and an all-out pursuit to love, submit to, fully trust in, and follow after the Lord Jesus Christ in obedience to his revealed will, by the Spirit’s enablement (grace, Acts 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25). This saving faith will always result in good works (Eph. 2:10; James 2:26). Faith and repentance are the only evidences that a man has a new heart: turning from sin to Christ reveals a new heart; failure to turn from sin and to Christ reveals an old heart.
- VIII. Coming to Christ
- A. Not in the wrong way—Matt. 7:21; 19:16–22.
1. Doing God a favor that is deserving of his grace—“I’m so special.”
 2. Only for fire insurance (to avoid hell at death)—“I don’t want to suffer forever.”
 3. Adding a good and helpful thing to my life—“Why not, it can’t hurt?”
 4. So I can go to heaven with my family—“I want to see and be with them.”
 5. Wanting to become a better person—“I’m already good and this can make me better.”
 6. So Jesus can give me what I want, but I’m still living for my advantage.
 7. Wanting to be saved “in my sin” and not “from my sin.”
- B. But in the right way
1. With the right attitude
 - a. Humbled with a broken and contrite heart over my sin before a holy God—Matt. 5:3–5; Luke 15:18–19; 18:13–14.
 - b. Overwhelmed by God’s undeserved goodness—Rom. 11:33–36.
 2. With the right intentions—Jesus Christ as Lord.

- a. With a true desire and determination to turn from my sin and from living for myself—2 Cor. 5:15; 7:9–11; 1 Thess. 1:9.
- b. With a true desire and determination to depend on Christ’s righteousness and to live for him—2 Cor. 5:15; 1 Thess. 1:9.
- c. To whose advantage (“for” whom) am I living? 2 Cor. 5:14–15.
 - i. World—Rom. 12:1–2; 2 Cor. 10:5; 1 John 2:15–17.
 - ii. Sex—1 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:3–8; 1 Tim. 5:1–2.
 - iii. Work—Col. 3:23–25; 2 Thess. 3:6–9.
 - iv. Future—Matt. 6:33; James 4:15.
 - v. Church—1 Cor. 12:12, 25; Eph. 4:11–13; Heb. 10:24–25.
 - vi. Bible—John 14:21; 1 John 5:2–3.
 - vii. Appearance—1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Peter 3:3–4.
 - viii. Others—Rom. 12:9–13; 2 Cor. 5:18–20; Gal. 5:13.

IX. Understanding Our Reconciliation with God—2 Cor. 5

- A. He has given us a new heart—Ezek. 11:19–20; 36:25–27; 2 Cor. 5:17.
- B. God reconciled us (his elect) to himself —2 Cor. 5:17–18; Eph. 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18.
- C. He is our God, and we are his people—Rom. 9:23–26; 1 Peter 2:24–25; Rev. 21:3.
- D. He is our shepherd, high priest, comforter, and guide—Ps. 23; John 10:27–28; 2 Cor. 1:3–4; Heb. 4:14–16.
- E. We are to be his ambassadors to others—Matt. 28:19–20; 2 Cor. 5:18, 20.
- F. He will take us home (by death or by his return) to live with him, whom we eagerly await, and worship him forever—John 14:1–3; Col. 3:1–4; 1 Thess. 1:9–10; Rev. 22:1–3.

X. Warning to Those Who Reject the Gospel

- A. Because of unbelief—John 3:36; 5:24; 1 John 2:19; John 3:19–21.
- B. Because of abandoning the only hope—John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Heb. 6:4–8; 10:26–31.
- C. Their way is treacherous—Prov. 13:15; Heb. 3:12–19.
- D. They will never experience what a life of worshiping God is like—Matt. 19:16–22; John 10:10.
- E. They will be separated from God and his grace forever—Rev. 20:12–15; 21:8.

You may download the PowerPoint presentation of this appendix from www.stuartscott.org/gospel