Gospel in Context Outline

Stuart W. Scott

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


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; 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 Attributes

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:

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.

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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).


H. God offers forgiveness of sins and heaven to believers only through Jesus—John 14:1–6; Acts 4:12; Col. 2:13.


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.


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


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


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.
   v. Church—1 Cor. 12:12, 25; Eph. 4:11–13; Heb. 10:24–25.
   vii. Appearance—1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Peter 3:3–4.

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
   C. Their way is treacherous—Prov. 13:15; Heb. 3:12–19.
   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