

Week 7 – Response to the Gospel

Throughout these last several weeks, we have walked through a message we call the Gospel. Gospel means good news and the good news we have talked about is how we can have a relationship with God.

First, we started by talking about who God is. Then we talked about how man is a unique creation of God's with a purpose to glorify God and point all of creation to Him. We then got into the problem of sin that gets in the way and keeps us from being able to have a relationship with God. Sin deserves punishment and God can't be around sin because He is perfect. We talked about how Jesus, God in the flesh, came to earth and lived a perfect life that we could never live and died the death that we deserve. We needed him as a savior because there was no way that we could get rid of our sins and restore a relationship with God on our own. So Jesus came to die in our place and for our sins. And after that, Jesus rose from the dead to prove that he was God and that He had power over death. That is the gospel message; that is really good news!

But what are we supposed to do with good news like that? What should our reaction be? Jesus paid the price for our sins, but we are only actually saved when we believe in him and trust him to be our savior. The Bible tells us this in one of the most famous verses that you might have heard before. In John 3:16 it says "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

When Jesus died and came back to life on the third day, he offered us the free gift of eternal life and a relationship with God. He offered us a restored relationship with the Creator and peace so that we will not have to pay the price for our sins. He offered us forgiveness.

Jesus offered us such a great gift, but the story can't end there. We still have to accept and receive that gift. If someone offered to give you \$100, would you get the money as soon as they asked if you wanted it? No, you would have to respond to that offer and accept the gift. In a similar way, we need to accept the free gift that God is offering us; we need to accept His forgiveness.

It is absolutely crucial that we accept the gift, but it is not difficult. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." All we have to do is admit that we have sinned against God and acknowledge that we can do nothing to get rid of that sin on our own. We have to ask God to forgive us and trust in Him to make us clean. So don't wait! The gift is waiting. Will you accept it?

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have any questions about how to have a relationship with God?
2. What is the free gift that God offers through Jesus' death and resurrection?
3. How does the Bible say we receive that gift?