

The Gospel: A Personal Study Guide

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Introduction

The following personal study guide is intended to enhance your understanding of the gospel message. I suppose there may be a number of ways to articulate the gospel message. This little study is a topical/systematic treatment, addressing thematic doctrines, all of which are crucial to a full understanding of the gospel.

Exactly how you complete this study is up to you. It may be easiest just to tackle one or two questions each day. For the “Doctrine of the Savior” section, it may require you to tackle one capital letter section each day (“His Divinity”, “His Humanity”, etc.). Dividing the study in this way will easily allow you to complete any given section over the course of the week, usually leaving a few days to spare.

The desire in producing this study is not only to increase your knowledge and understanding of the gospel, but also to encourage you in the habit of daily, personal Bible reading/study. May God bless this study guide for that purpose as you grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Bible Study # 1: Doctrine of Creation

1. According to Genesis 1:3 and Psalm 33, by what means did God create the world? What does this tell us about God's power?
2. According to Genesis 1:26-28, what unique responsibility did God give to mankind? What do you think it means to be "made in the image of God"?
3. According to Genesis 1:31 what was the nature of the creation that God made? Do you think that this is still the case today? Why or why not?
4. Look at Jeremiah 32:17. The Bible tells us that God is sovereign over creation. What does this mean? In light of this, how would you characterize our responsibility before Him?
5. According to all the passages above, who has the absolute right to govern your life?

Bible Study #2: Doctrine of Sin

1. According to Genesis 2:16-17 and Genesis 3:1-7, what did Adam and Eve do that deserved God's disfavor?
2. How would you characterize their disobedience to God's law according to 1 John 3:4?
3. What penalty did God assign to Adam and Eve for their disobedience according to Genesis 2:16-17, Genesis 3:17-21 and Romans 6:23?
4. What does this death penalty include according to Genesis 3:22-24 and Revelation 20:11-15?
5. Is there anyone who does not deserve this death penalty according to Romans 3:9-10? How does this compare with society's view of people?
6. How might the death of Jesus Christ relate to this deserved death penalty according to Isaiah 53?

Bible Study #3: Doctrine of the Savior

Part 1: His Person

His Divinity

1. What does John 1:1-4 say about the Word of God? How is this supported by Genesis 1, verses 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, and 26? Who does John 1:14-18 identify as that Word?
2. How does Jesus refer to Himself in John 8, verses 24, 28, and 58? How did the Jews react to Christ's self-description according to John 8:59?
3. How does Exodus 3:13-14 help us understand Jesus' claims in John 8?

His Humanity

4. How does Jesus true humanity come through in the story recorded in Luke 2:41-52?
5. How does the author of Hebrews argue for Jesus' humanity in Hebrews 2:14-18?
6. How does Jesus, even after His resurrection, show His full humanity in John 21:1-11?

Part 2: His Work

His Intercession on the Cross

7. Why was Jesus born according to Matthew 1:21?

8. What did Jesus say about His role and purpose in coming according to John 10:11-15?

9. Why is there no reason for any other sacrifice for sin according to Hebrews 10:11-14?

10. How does Paul summarize Christ's work in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4?

His Intercession at God's Right Hand

11. Look at Hebrews 7:23-27. What is Jesus doing right now at God's right hand?

12. On what basis does Jesus intercede for true believers according to 1 John 2:1-2?

13. What does Christ ensure by His intercession for those who have surrendered to Him based on Romans 8:34-35?

Bible Study #4: Doctrine of Saving Faith-Part 1

1. What is the condition of every single human being according to Romans 3:10-18?

2. How do the prophet Jeremiah and Mark, the gospel writer, describe the condition of every single human being in Jeremiah 17:9 and Mark 7:21-22?

3. How do John and Jesus describe God's character and standard for man to dwell in His presence according to 1 John 1:5 and Matthew 5:48?

4. Despite that overwhelming Biblical data and human experience to verify man's sinful condition and God's demand for perfect holiness, man has still tried many ways to gain God's acceptance. Comment on why the following "human" ideas are insufficient to make man acceptable to God.
 - Reincarnation →

 - Keeping God's Law (i.e., the Law of Moses) →

 - Moral Reform →

 - Religious Ritual →

 - "Right" religious belief or practice

 - Being a "good person"

Bible Study #5: Doctrine of Saving Faith-Part 2

1. Clearly, the only hope for sinful mankind in need of a righteousness that meets the standard of a holy God is to receive it as a gift. Read Romans 3:21-31.
 - According to 3:21-26, how did Christ's death on the cross display God's righteousness?

 - According to 3:27-30, how does one receive this righteousness of God?

 - In response to 3:31, how does the law of faith establish the Law of Moses?

2. How do Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:4-7 show that this righteousness is secured not by good works, but by faith alone? How can we be sure that this righteousness does not come through the sacraments, as some may assert?

3. What therefore does James mean in James 2:21-24 when he asserts that man is justified by works and not by faith alone? How does 1 John 3:6-10 help us to interpret James' words?

4. How is repentance related to justifying faith according to Acts 20:17-21? How does Psalm 51 further illuminate the notion of repentance as a part of justifying faith?

5. How would you define God's grace according to 2 Corinthians 8:9? According to Romans 4:13-16, what is the connection between faith and grace? Why must it be by "faith alone"?