

/We will begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture on “An Introduction to the New Testament.” /In our last lecture, I asked the question, “How can knowing that people are sinners be good news?”

/Knowing that we are sinners is an embarrassing and painful thing. /But if we truly are sinners, then we need to know that we are sinners.

/If a sick person does not know that he is a patient, he cannot prepare for his death or receive treatment.

/Don't you rush to the hospital if your body is sick? /By doing so, we find out where we are hurting, and we learn whether we are sick or healthy.

/Hearing that you have a disease is very sad news. /However, it is necessary to be properly diagnosed and informed of the disease.

/We need to know what our sickness is when we are sick. /That is why people spend a lot of money to receive a proper diagnosis. /This explains to us why knowing that we are sinners is good news.

/Naturally, we are dead in our flaws and sins. /However, we along with every other person did not know that we are sinners. /Then, God gave us the gospel.

/This gospel first tells us about our sins. /The gospel explains the state of despair that we human beings are in. /It also tells us that we need to deal with our sin.

/Repent. /**Only sinners need the gospel. /This is the important second theme of the gospel.**

/We will move on to the **third** theme of the gospel. /**The gospel was given to us as a promise in the Old Testament.**

/As we already read in our last lecture, Romans 1:2-4 says this. / “Which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

/The gospel was given to us as a promise in the Old Testament. /Hebrews says it this way. /Hebrews 1:1-2 says, / “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”

/What is written in the Old Testament? /God sent his prophets to the Israelites of the Old Testament times and spoke his promises through them. /God spoke through the systems of circumcision and offerings, through the Sabbath and feasts, and through various other means. What did God speak?

/He promised a Redeemer. /Do you remember what we talked about in our last lecture? /The first important point of the gospel is that God exists, /and the second important point is that human beings are sinners.

/If the gospel ends here, then we should despair. /We cannot resolve the problem of sin on our own. /But God came to us. /He came to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

/And God spoke through Moses and the prophets. /He calls the promise he made with them the “covenant.” /God repeatedly makes the promise that he will deliver them.

/This promise of the gospel was given to Adam. /God said the woman’s offspring would bruise the head of the serpent. /That is why the Old Testament is called the promise of the gospel.

/By giving them the promise of the gospel of salvation, God called his people to live as people of the covenant. /We cannot understand why God came to us with the promise of salvation. /Did God really have to do this?

/Did God really have to give his beloved one and only Son as a sacrifice on the cross? /We cannot explain why God’s Son, Christ, suffered extreme pain and experienced shame on the cross.

/What we do know is that nothing other than God’s love can explain all these things. /God’s sovereign will and love that earnestly desire to save us are the explanation for the promise God gave to us.

/Therefore, in these aspects, the entire Old Testament is the gospel. /It is God’s gift of grace that comes purely from his love, his deep will, and his sovereign decree. It isn’t earned by our efforts.

/We can understand the gospel as originating from God’s sovereign grace and love. /God exists, all people are sinners, and God has a promise to save sinful man.

/If the gospel ends here, then there is no good news for us. /A promise doesn’t complete the gospel. /Believers, are there times when you make a promise but don’t keep it?

/A promise has value only when the promise is fulfilled. /**The gospel declares that God’s promise was fulfilled in Christ.**

/This is the **fourth** important theme of the gospel. /It is the core of the gospel. /**The gospel is the good news of redemption that has already been fulfilled by Christ.** /The gospel, given to us as a promise, was fulfilled in Christ’s incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension.

/1 Corinthians 15:14 summarizes the core of the gospel message. / “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

/In short, the gospel declares the fact that Christ came as was promised, and Christ fulfilled everything as was promised. /Therefore, the news about Christ is joyful news, and it is the gospel.

/The book of Mark begins like this. / “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” /Every book of the Bible points to Jesus Christ, but the news about Christ coming to this earth as a real part of history to fulfill all things, the news about everything that he did, and especially the news of his suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension are the gospel, the core message of the gospel.

/The news of Jesus coming to this earth is the gospel. /That is why Luke 2:10-11 says, / “And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

/Christ came and fulfilled our redemption. /Christ’s work of redemption completely made atonement for our sins. /His work of redemption has historically and objectively been perfectly fulfilled.

/Whether we acknowledge it or not, whether we know it or not, Christ’s work of redemption is a historical event that has already been fulfilled. /We cannot add to or subtract from this.

/Redemption is purely God’s masterpiece, his work of salvation. /Christ obeyed to make this happen. /He paid the price for our sins and was cursed and punished for our salvation.

/And because of the sacrifice he made at once, whoever comes to him will be forgiven of sins and will receive salvation. Christ fulfilled this redemption. /This is the gospel.

/The gospel is the news of Christ fulfilling the promises /God made a long time ago. /The effectiveness and grounds for our salvation was fulfilled on the cross of Christ.

/That is why Calvin said, “The gospel is the grand declaration of grace revealed in Christ.” /We call the first four books of the New Testament the Gospel Books.

/ “The Gospel Books” are also called “The Gospels.” /Every book of the Bible is the gospel, /so why do we call the Gospel Books the Gospel Books? /We call them the Gospels because they focus on Jesus Christ, who is the core substance of the gospel.

/Jesus came as promised and completed everything on the cross. Does the gospel end here? /Here, we can proceed to the **fifth** important theme of the gospel.

/Even if Christ prepared good things for us, /they do not do us any good if we do not have them as our own. /The New Testament explains to us how the gospel fulfilled by Christ can be the gospel to us.

/In other words, **the gospel explains how we can make the redemption fulfilled by Christ our own.** /The gospel tells us how to be united with Christ, who came as was promised.

/Are the benefits, effects, and gains of this redemption fulfilled by Christ given to everybody? /Is it automatically given to every person, even if they just sit there?

/Whoever comes forward to Christ, the one who has everything, will be given the gift of redemption. /How do we go forward to Christ? /We do so by going to him with the faith of believing in him and holding on to him.

/Then, this person will have all of Christ's righteousness be his righteousness, he will be united with Christ, he will share in his body, and he will live as one sharing in Christ's blood.

/This is the proclamation of the gospel, an invitation. /Jesus tells us to believe in this gospel. /John 3:16 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."

/In Romans 3:22-24, Paul says, /"The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

/Where does it say redemption is in? /It says that redemption is in Christ Jesus. /Now how can you make that redemption yours? /By faith alone can we make the results of Christ's redemption ours.

/The gospel says that if we believe in Christ, we receive all things for free. /This is the doctrine of being "made righteous through faith," which the Apostle Paul emphasized. /"The righteous shall live by faith." Romans 1:17.

/This is an invitation to the gospel. /In faith, we must accept it and hold onto it to make it our own. / "Faith" is accepting everything that Christ fulfilled, making it my own, and faith is the only way we can apply redemption as our own.

/Those who do not know the gospel do not know the secrets of this gospel. /In the history of the church, there have been many people who denied the truth of the gospel. /These people existed during the Apostle Paul's lifetime.

/That is why the Apostle Paul warns in Galatians 1:8, "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed." /Some people of the churches of Galatia claimed that people must be circumcised in addition to believing in Jesus for them to be saved.

/But this was a different gospel. /It isn't the gospel. /We are saved by faith alone. /By faith, we are united with Christ, and everything becomes ours.

/We died with Christ and have been raised to life with Christ. /Does the gospel end here? /There is a little more left.

**/Sixth, the gospel also tells us how those who receive the gospel and believe in it are to live according to it.** /The gospel does not end with us believing in Jesus in this world and being forgiven of our sins and then going to heaven.

/People consider the gospel to end at this stage. They have this misconception about the gospel. /Some people live in self-indulgence, thinking that they can live however they want because they believe in Jesus.

/Some people believe in Jesus but don't live as believers. /They are not living in accordance with the gospel. /The gospel teaches God's people how they are to live in accordance with the gospel.

/In other words, we must be sanctified. /This is a life in accordance with the gospel. /It requires continual repentance and obedience. /This is the reason why the gospel was given to us.

/Titus 2:14 says this. / "Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."

**/We've come to the last important theme of the gospel.** /What does the gospel tell us? / Our bodies will lose their breath, and we will decay in the earth. **/However, our souls are guided to heaven, and there, we will be made glorious and be at rest while we wait for the resurrection of our bodies.**

/Also, when Christ returns, our weak bodies will take on glorious bodies of the resurrection that do not decay. /The gospel tells us that we will forever be with the Lord in the kingdom of our eternal God, our Father.

/This is **the culmination and completion of the gospel.** /Everything of Christ's redemption that was ultimately meant for us will be fulfilled when the time comes.

/The Bible bears witness about Christ's return, his resurrection, and heaven, all of which are good news, a part of the gospel. /People believe that the Bible does not say much about heaven.

/But if we look closely in the Bible, the Bible says a lot about heaven, Christ's return, and resurrection.

/Revelation especially tells us in detail about heaven and the day of the Lord's coming.

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/Whenever you have the chance, you should contemplate not about this world, but about heaven, and you should learn the things the Bible teaches.

/The Bible is filled with this gospel, these truths of the gospel. /I hope that you daily develop a deeper understanding of this full gospel, of this truth. /I hope that you bear witness about this glorious gospel of grace. /May you daily read and study the Bible, which is the word of God.

/This concludes the 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture on "An Introduction to the New Testament." /Thank you.