

The Gospel Encapsulized

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I. God - He is Man's Creator, Sustainer, and Judge - Every Man will give an account to Him on the Last Day.

A. Holy - God's character is dominated by the Attribute of blazing moral purity. He cannot tolerate evil.

1. Isaiah 6:3, 5 "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts...Then I said, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips.'"

2. Habakkuk 1:13 "Thine eyes are too pure to approve evil, and Thou canst not look on wickedness with favor." *dry leaf before a bonfire

B. Just - If His standard of perfect moral purity is not met(His Law), He will certainly bring punishment. He never winks at sin.

1. Exodus 34:7b "He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished" *It is a wicked judge who disregards crimes(Pr17:15) **Booth kills Lincoln

2. Psalm 11:6 "Upon the wicked He will rain snares; Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup."

C. Exacting - The Commitment of a single sin results in the just punishment of God's wrath.

1. James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point, he has become guilty of all."

2. Genesis 2:17 - Adam's Single sin resulted in God's Curse and Death *Leviticus 10:1-3 - Nadab and Abihu's single misstep

3. Sound Unreasonable? This is unlike man's easygoing toleration of sin. Psalm 50:21 "You thought that I was just like you."

*Illustrations

1. Clean Palm of Hand displayed as Spotless

2. Proofreading - single misspelling, whole page thrown into waste basket, reprint.

3. Single grain of dirt intolerable to the eye.

II. Man - He was created by God, is daily sustained by God, will in the last day be judged by God. He has a Sin Problem.

A. Original Sin - Adam's sin was legally charged to the Record of each and every one of his children.

1. Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

2. Adam was the Legal Representative of all Mankind. His disobedience made us guilty and condemned enemies of God.

a. Illustration - FDR, our representative, signs a declaration of war against Japan. Every American is at war with Japan.

b. Illustration - Ahab's 70 sons are all beheaded as a result of their father's sin. (1 Kings 21:21; 2 Kings 10:7)

3. As a newborn Baby - before you breathed, spoke, walked - Guilty of Adam's Sin, born under the Wrath of God, Hell bound

a. Psalm 51:5 "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."

B. Personal Sin - Every soul has a Bad Record not only due to the imputation of Adam's sin, but also due to the imitation of Adam's sin.

1. Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." - Sin is disobeying the Law of God (1 John 3:4). *10 Commandments

2. Isaiah 53:6 "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way."

3. Psalm 40:12 "My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see; they are more numerous than the hairs of my head."

C. Continual Sin - Every soul has a bad heart producing more and more sin - an Evil Deed Factory (motivations) - cleanup impossible

1. Jeremiah 17:5 "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"

2. Isaiah 64:6a "For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment."

3. Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."

*Illustrations

1. Bible (each letter representing 1000 sins), placed on Palm of Hand - 1 dot of "i" enough to damn - doomed to Hell!

2. Man's Sin Problem - not a pinch of sin, but whole mountain range of sin - before a Holy God who can't tolerate a grain!

III. Jesus Christ - Man is hopeless and helpless to save himself. But God sent a savior, His son, who is fully God and fully man.

A. His Sinless Perfection - Christ, the 2nd Adam, perfectly fulfilled the Law that both Adam and Every Sinner have broken.

1. Hebrews 4:15 He “has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”
2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
3. Jesus Christ’s Record and Heart were Perfectly Sinless - not a spot or grain of sin - The Unblemished Lamb of God

B. His Saving Substitution - Christ came as the scapegoat, to take on his back, the full weight of sinners’ guilt (Leviticus 16:21-22).

1. Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquities of us all to fall on Him.”
2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
3. Bible (load of sin), unloaded from the defiled hand, onto the perfectly pure hand, crushed for sins on the Cross.
4. Isaiah 53:5 “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our wellbeing fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.” *Shoulders of Deity - broad enough - carry sins of uncountable multitude
5. Previously Sin Defiled Hand (Original Sin and Personal Sin) - now inherits Christ’s Righteousness - acceptable to Holy God - Justification

IV. Response - If you are to flee from the wrath to come, you must by the power of the Holy Spirit rightly respond to the Gospel.

A. By Faith - You must abandon trust in your own good deeds, and believingly rest the full weight of your soul on the Cross work of Christ.

1. Eph. 2:8-9 “by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”
2. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”
3. Illustration - 2 men capsized in Niagara River, one grabs onto log (good deeds) and dies; other onto shore rope (Christ) and lives.
4. Illustration - Child standing on Piano, Father instructs him to fall backwards, total trust - Luke 23:46 “Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit.”
5. Hymns - Pleas of Faith on Judgment Day:
 - a. “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling”
 - b. “Just as I am without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me”

B. By Repentance - You must hate and forsake your sins because they are displeasing to God, resolving new obedience to Him.

1. Titus 2:11-12 “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.” *New Birth brings a New Heart and New Life
2. Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
3. 1 John 2:4 “The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”
4. Zaccheus: “Half my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I’ve defrauded...I’ll give back 4 times as much.” Jesus: “Today salvation has come.” (Lk19:8f)
5. Matthew 7:20 “You will know them by their fruits.” - A New Heart, ruled by the Holy Spirit, will produce a holy life. Proof of genuine salvation