

GOSPEL 101
SESSION 1 – WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?
NOVEMBER 5, 2023

WELCOME & PREVIEW

Gospel Introduction – What is the Gospel? (Nov 5)

Gospel Thieves (Nov 12 & 19)

Gospel Themes (Nov 26, Dec 3, Dec 10, Dec 17)

BOTTOM LINE

The Gospel is objective and subjective.

SHARE - AT YOUR TABLE

Introduce yourself and answer the following questions

- 1) Are you more of a feeler or a thinker? Give a quick example.
- 2) Which of the two was the largest emphasis in the church/denomination where you grew up?

OUR MISSION

Helping ordinary people know and share extraordinary life in Christ.

THE OBJECTIVE GOSPEL – The ABC'S of the Christian Faith

What's a Bible verse that communicates the Gospel to you?

THE OBJECTIVE GOSPEL – Proclaimed for You to Hear

In Lutheran preaching and teaching, there are two primary categories which describe the justifying work of Jesus.

1. Christ as our _____.

Jesus kept the law of God that I am unable to keep. He atoned for my sin upon the cross when he died in my place to receive the wrath of Father that I deserve for my rebellion against the one, true, holy God.

In the life of the church, when do we hear talk about Christ as our vicar?

2. Christ as our _____.

Jesus conquered the curse of sin (death) and rose from the grave to be the first fruits of all who trust in him. He will return to defeat death and the Devil once and for all. At his return, he will renew all of creation and inaugurate a new era of salvation history in new heavens and the new earth (that is, all of creation). He will raise our bodies from the ground and give us an imperishable body.

In the life of the church, when do we hear talk about Christ as our vicar?

THE SUBJECTIVE GOSPEL – The A to Z of the Christian Life

Subjective – the personal experience that flows from one’s objective reality

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. (NLT)

What does Paul mean by “work out your own salvation”?

Galatians 2:11-14

How does Paul confront Peter?

Orthopodeo – to _____ (_____)

My Gospel “Wheel”

Use the space below to draw your own Gospel “wheel”.

Reflect – What are your strongest spokes? What are your weakest spokes?

QUESTIONS?

PREVIEW

Gospel Thieves – 2 wks

Nov 12 - Moralism, Antinomianism

Nov 19 - Idols

Gospel Themes – 4 wks (Nov 26 – Dec 17)

Adoption, Known, Covenant, Kingdom

BOTTOM LINE

The Gospel is objective and subjective.

WRAP UP

The subjective Gospel will be the focus of the rest of this class.

TWO THEOLOGICAL TERMS – In the Right Order

Justification – By the death and resurrection of Christ, I am declared objectively righteous in God’s sight. This is completely a gift from God, who gave me faith to trust and receive him as Savior. See Ephesians 2:8-9

*Justification by faith is not your behavior
Justification by faith is not your feelings
Justification by faith is not a quantity, it’s a quality.
Have it or don’t. If you are worried about it, you’re fine.*

Sanctification – Sanctification is justification lived out. Now that I am converted, by the work of the Holy Spirit, God renews me each day. And yet, unlike my justification, I also have a part to play in my regeneration. What part do I play? God works in me as (through repentance and receiving God’s forgiveness, reception of the means of grace in the divine service, my own rhythms of personal Bible meditation and prayer). Note how Paul describes the relationship of justification and sanctification as he transitions from Ephesians 2:8-9 to Ephesians 2:10.

*While justification is for my sake, sanctification is for:
My sake – my personal holiness and character
My neighbor – through my good works in my vocations
Sanctification is not merely trying hard to be holy
(though striving for holiness through repentance matters)
Because I am a sinner and a saint, sanctification (my behavior) is not an accurate
measurement of my justification, but flows from it.
As stated above, sanctification is justification lived out.*

What does it mean to say that these terms belong in the right order? Justification happens instantly, at the moment of your conversion. Sanctification is the personal, spiritual growth that happens over the whole life of a Christian.

Why are these terms relevant in today’s study? At the risk of oversimplification, we might closely correlate them like this:

Justification ☐ The Objective Gospel

The good news of the Gospel is that God has saved me by grace to be his own. I’m declared righteous in his sight.

Sanctification ☐ The Personal Gospel

As Paul prays in Ephesians 1:17 (NIV) – “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, *so that you may know him better*”, you can grow to know Jesus in a deeper, more personal way.