

Study #1 Believe The Gospel

The Gospel (first four books in the New Testament) consists of the “Good news” from God detailing the life, ministry, death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of **Matthew** was written to the nation of Israel of from a Jewish point of view. Matthew emphasizes that Jesus’ actions were the direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

The Gospel of **Mark** was written for Gentile Christians, especially Romans. Mark was used to strengthen and guide Roman believers through persecution. The theme is Jesus as the suffering servant.

The Gospel of **Luke** was written to the Greek. Luke was a physician. Luke is the only Gospel that has a sequel – Acts. Luke is the longest of the four Gospels. Luke records a wide variety of miracles, teaching and parables making it the fullest portrait of Jesus’ ministry.

The Gospel of **John** was written directly to and for believers. The first three Gospels major on describing **events** in the life of Christ, John’s Gospel emphasized the **meaning** of these events. John gives a logical and chronological sequence in his Gospel. He also gives attention to the places and cities.

1. **What is the Gospel to everyone who believes? (Romans 1:16)** – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

***** Step One – God’s Love *****

2. **What is the one word that describes why God sent His Son (Jesus) for you and me? Love. (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 everlasting life.”
3. **Why did Jesus come? (John 10:10)** – “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

***** Step Two – The Problem ***** - Sin is doing things our way instead of God’s way. The Bible says that our sins have separated us from God – that’s a problem.

4. **How many of us have sinned? (Romans 3:23)** – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

5. **What is the result of sin? (Romans 6:23)** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus or Lord.”

***** Step Three – The Solution ***** - God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins, and to conquer its death by raising Him from the dead. This way we can come to God and receive all the good things He has for us.

6. **What did Christ go through to bring us to God? (1 Peter 3:18)** – “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”
7. **True or false: God loved us and did this for us because we were so good that we deserved it.** False. **(Romans 5:8)** – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
8. **Is being saved from sins something that I work for, or something God freely gives me? (Ephesians 2:8-9)** – “for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; its is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
9. **Is there any other way to the Father except Jesus?** No. **(John 14:6)** – “Jesus said to him (Thomas)*, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” *added for clarity

(Acts 4:12) – “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

***** Step Four – How It Works ***** - Now that we know what God has done, we need to receive the result into our lives.

10. **How does one become a child of God? (John 1:12)** – “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” This is the same question Nicodemus poses to Jesus in John (3:1-21).
11. **What must we do to have Christ come into our hearts? (Romans 10:9-13)** – “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call up Him. For “whoever call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.””
12. **What does God say you have once you receive Jesus as Lord and Savior?** Life. **(1 John 5:11-12)** – “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

From the essay – “The Incomparable Christ”

“More than nineteen hundred years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.

He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, and had neither training nor formal education. In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitude without medicine and made no charge for His service.

He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold all the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined.

He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, not fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.

He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near. Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.

The name of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientist, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred year between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not destroy Him, the grave could not hold Him. He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by the angels, adored by saints, and feared by the devils, as the living personal Christ, our Lord and Savior.”

Matthew 22:2-3 says “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.”

Christ has invited you. If you're a believer, then you've RSVP'd – yes. Now will you show up?

Show up in prayer, studying the Word and fellowship. Will you show up daily at home, work or at school, wherever Christ calls for you?