

this gospel recreates us and reconciles us through the blood of Christ.

Our righteousness is in Christ, not in ourselves. Our righteousness, or right-ness before a holy God, is not wrapped up in what we do but rather is found in what Christ has done. This is fundamental to living rightly before God. Paul wrote, “the righteous shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:17). We are not the heroes of our righteousness, actively achieving it on our own. We are, instead, humble recipients who, in Christ, become the righteousness of God.

The gospel is the good news of this gifted righteousness. It begins with God creating a good world and giving people good rules by which to enjoy life. But as the sad chapter of Genesis 3 tells us, we traded those good rules for our own way. And we traded the protection of the King for separation from the King. But while we were yet sinners and separated from God he sent Christ to live the life we failed to live and die the death we deserved to die. In our place he stood condemned. And by the triumphant resurrection from the grave God displayed his approval on Jesus. The resurrection etched into a rolled away stone that which God had said, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.” And this Jesus will be known and worshipped by people from every tribe and nation. He will dwell with his people. He will wipe away every tear and trample every enemy under his feet. The gospel is the good news of the great King.