



Gospel Assumptions

At 222Disciple we believe that the main message of Scripture is a message of Good News. This message in Scripture is the “gospel”—a word which literally means ‘good news.’ The gospel is central to the Christian life—both as the power unto salvation and for growth as a disciple. With this in mind, one of our main objectives is to help you gain clarity about the gospel message. We want to help you gain this clarity for yourself personally, for the sake of your church, and for the process of disciple-making you are beginning. Toward this end, there are some basic assumptions that we want to articulate:

1. God has revealed Himself both in Creation (General Revelation) and through His Word (Special Revelation). General Revelation is by nature mostly non-verbal and is insufficient to convey knowledge of the way of salvation.
2. Scripture (Special Revelation) is verbal by nature and reveals the plan of God for the redemption of sinners and the world.
3. The 66 books of the Bible and all their contents form an organic unity. They tell one story of God redeeming his created but fallen world.
4. The revelation in Scripture is progressive in that the main truths increase in clarity and stand out in the New Testament with all their fullness and beauty.
5. The revelation in Scripture is accommodated to our understanding and is sufficiently clear. (This truth does not deny that the Bible contains mysteries perhaps even too deep for human understanding. Instead this truth implies that the knowledge necessary unto salvation, though not equally clear on every page of the Bible, is conveyed in a manner so simple that anyone earnestly seeking salvation can easily gather this knowledge for him/herself.)
6. Thus, it is possible in a clear, simple, and logical way to articulate the main message of Scripture.
7. This Good News or ‘Gospel’ has verbal/propositional content.
8. Since the Scriptures form an organic unity, no part of Scripture is unrelated or separated apart from the main message.
9. It would thus be inappropriate to interpret any part of Scripture as though it were unrelated to the main message or in a way that is contrary to the main message.

Based on these assumptions, our goal is to help each person move away from an incomplete, garbled, and sketchy 'gospel' and toward a clear, complete, logical, and sequential presentation of the Good News. This is so important, because the Bible itself says that the message of the gospel is of 'first importance' and is the 'power of God for salvation.' Consider the following Scripture passages:

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 "Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you have received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
- Romans 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes... For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last."
- Romans 15:15-16 "I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God."
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5: "For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction."

Toward the goal of helping you develop a clear, complete, logical, and sequential presentation of the Good News, we ask that you memorize an outline of the Bible's Gospel Message under three headings: Sin, Salvation, and Service. We acknowledge that there are many good and acceptable ways of articulating the Gospel, and this is only one of them. However, in order to share a common language together, we ask that you work on committing this particular outline of the Gospel with each of its points to memory. You do not have to memorize the outline word for word, rather just concept for concept. Doing so will help you gain an appreciation for the important concepts that are necessary for you to understand in order to have clarity about what God has accomplished on your behalf through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.