

## Video Transcript: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

1.

Most people would agree that the world we live in is full of evil. Many of us harbour the desire for a saviour to deliver the world, and us personally, from this evil. The good news is that God has given us just such a Saviour in the person of Jesus Christ.

In this video, it is my pleasure to share with you this wonderful message of hope – the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2.

The word “gospel” means “good news”.

Hence, the gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of salvation which God has provided through faith in Christ. Jesus himself summed up the gospel in these words:

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).*

In essence, the gospel is God’s message of hope to a lost world. Jesus said:

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (John 8:12).*

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important message that you will ever hear. Your eternal destiny depends on knowing and understanding it.

3.

The Bible tells us that when God created the world it was free of all evil: “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

But Adam and Eve, the first two people, were tempted by Satan and chose to disobey God (Genesis 3).

The language used in the Bible’s description of these events vividly illustrates many aspects of sin:

- Satan tempts people to sin. He first casts doubt into their minds about what God requires and follows this up with bold-faced lies about the consequences of sin.
- People are naturally attracted to sin. To Eve the thought of gaining knowledge like that of God was irresistible.
- People follow others into sin. We are not told what Adam was thinking when he chose to disobey God, but it is likely that he believed the same lies as Eve had been told, and adding to that, he surely did not want to miss out on what she now had.

4.

- Sin leads to separation between God and man. The friendship that Adam and Eve had enjoyed with God was now replaced with fear.
- Sin leads to broken relationships between people. When confronted by God, Adam blamed both God and Eve for his own failings, while Eve blamed Satan.
- The consequences of sin do not always follow immediately, but they are certain to follow. In the case of this original sin, all of mankind and the whole of creation was cursed.

As a result of Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God, death, hardship and suffering entered the world. In the words of the apostle Paul:

*... sin entered the world through [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all have sinned (Romans 5:12).*

5.

The word “sin” is used here to describe behaviour which is contrary to the will of God. Since God is holy and righteous, sin must be unholy and unrighteous.

It is impossible for any ordinary person to fully obey the law of God and thereby achieve righteousness in his eyes. This is confirmed by the apostle Paul who wrote:

*Therefore no-one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin (Romans 3:20).*

While death is the ultimate penalty for sin, it also affects our lives. Jesus said:

*I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin ... [but] if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed (John 8:34-36).*

6.

Even if the wicked do prosper in this life, the Bible warns that, “Those who are far from [God] will perish” (Psalm 73:27).

And for those who die in their sins, Jesus taught that they will be “thrown into hell, where ‘their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’” (Mark 9:47-48).

In another place, he warned that the unrighteous “will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life” (Matthew 25:46).

Similarly, Paul said: “There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil ... but glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good” (Romans 2:9-10).

7.

So how then can we be saved from the judgment of God?

The good news is that we can be saved by having faith in Christ. Jesus said:

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him (John 3:36).*

Note that we are saved by **faith alone**, and not by religious rituals or good deeds:

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no-one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

8.

Jesus willingly gave his life so that all who believe in him can be saved. Jesus said:

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11).*

Christ’s willing sacrifice demonstrates both the righteousness and the love of God.

On the one hand, a righteous God could not allow sin to go unpunished, because this would be unjust; but on the other hand, by sending his own Son to pay the price for our sins, his love for us is revealed.

9.

It is by Christ’s sacrifice that all who believe in him are made right with God, and our salvation is obtained. In the words of the apostle Paul:

*God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation (Romans 5:8-11).*

10.

Amazingly, this remarkable and unique event in the history of the world was predicted by the prophet Isaiah over 700 years before Christ was born:

*Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:4-5).*

Therefore, God assures us:

*Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool (Isaiah 1:18).*

11.

There are four critical aspects to obtaining salvation: confession, repentance, forgiveness and belief.

Repentance and forgiveness are at the heart of the gospel message.

Repentance involves heartfelt regret and sorrow for past sins, and a determination to change one's ways.

But in order to repent of our sins, it is necessary to confess them to God. The apostle John wrote:

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*

12.

The forgiveness of sins is something that we both receive from God, and give to those who have sinned against us. Jesus said:

*Forgive, and you will be forgiven (Luke 6:37).*

Underpinning these actions is the belief that Jesus is our Saviour. Thus, Paul taught:

*... if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved (Romans 10:9-10).*

13.

Living as a Christian involves learning what God requires of us, and obeying his commands. Jesus said:

*If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:31-32).*

Jesus also promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide us and to help us. He said:

*If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you (John 14:15-17).*

14.

If you would like to get to know Jesus Christ, this is what you should do:

- ❖ **Pray to Jesus.** "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).
- ❖ **Read the Bible.** You should start by reading the whole of the New Testament, asking Jesus to help you to understand what you are reading.

- ❖ **Join a church.** It is vital that you find a church which holds the Bible to be the final authority in all matters of faith and practice for those who believe in Jesus Christ.