

Engaging World Religions

Session 2: Differences That Matter!

What the Gospel is NOT

- Getting spared from eternity in Hell (that is a benefit of the Gospel)
- Reaching out to Jesus when your life is going so bad, hoping he will make it better
- Saying a simple prayer

Can you give the Gospel in 2 minutes?
In 5 minutes? In 20 minutes?

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the good news of the person and work of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again bearing our sins on the cross that whoever would repent and trust in Him will be saved.

For the Creator of the universe, who is Holy, Righteous, Just, and Merciful; has reached out in his mercy and grace and by his love provided a means of salvation to all those who have turned away from their creator, who were created in his image yet separated themselves from Him to the point of becoming an enemy of God, by sending his only Son, Jesus Christ, to take upon flesh becoming fully God and fully man, and then lived a perfect sinless life that we should have lived, and willfully gave up his life to die on a cross where he took the punishment we deserved, was buried, and on the third day rose again to prove that his payment for our sins sufficiently and completely satisfied the wrath of God. He paid the penalty of our sin fully. And now he offers this forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to himself for all who would repent and place their trust in the work of Christ to no longer be dead in sin and eternally separated from God but rather made alive and adopted as His child to be with him and to enjoy him forever.

Inclusivism vs Exclusivism

Jesus is the means of salvation, but does that mean that everyone must know the name of Jesus to be saved or does God allow other ways for people to come to Him

JESUS is the EXCLUSIVE way of Salvation

Select One

- ☒ Choice One
- ☒ Choice Two
- ☒ Choice Three
- ☒ Choice Four

Central Passages

"I (Jesus) am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6)

"there is no other name...whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12)

One God, One Mediator between God and man...Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5)

The Nature of God

Holy, Just, Righteous, Good, Loving, Merciful, etc...

The Nature of Man

Created good, but sinned, Now fallen he is separated from God, an enemy of God

The Nature of Sin

God in His justice will pour out His wrath upon sin

The Nature of Salvation

Christ, God in flesh, lived the life we couldn't live, died and bore the sin we deserved to bear, was raised to life to confirm the payment was sufficient, and offers salvation to all who repent and believe in Him as Savior and Lord

The Nature of Heaven/Hell (afterlife, eternity)

God's wrath poured out on those apart from Christ will result in eternal separation from God, while those in Christ will experience eternity with God

The Nature of the Bible

The Inspired, Inerrant, Infallible, Authoritative, and Sufficient source of Truth concerning God, man, sin, and salvation

ONE WAY 

Jesus is the Ontological and Epistemological means of Salvation

What is the Gospel?

It is...



Sam Storms

“the good news of what God has accomplished in the person of His Son, His life, death, and resurrection to secure the forgiveness of sins to all who repent and believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior”



David Platt

“the good news that the Holy and Just and Gracious Creator of all things has looked upon hopelessly rebellious men and women and He has sent His Son, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross, to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin and trust in Him, repents and believes in Him, will be reconciled to Him forever.”



John Piper

“the news that Jesus Christ, the righteous one died for our sins, rose again eternally triumphant over all his enemies, so that there is now no condemnation for those who believe, but only everlasting joy. That’s the Gospel”



Mark Dever

“that God made us and everything there is and He is good and he made us good; but we, made in God’s image, made to know Him, we have separated ourselves from Him, more than that, we have called down His displeasure, His wrath against us because he is good and we have done that we want rather than what he wants, it’s what the Bible calls sin. We have decided to live our lives separate from God, apart from him, and really when you read the Bible and come to understand it, against him. Now God would be entirely just to let us go. There is no reason, apart from himself, that would in any way require him to do anything other than judge us eternally...and yet in his amazing mercy, this God, infinite, and good; this God that we’ve offended, this heavenly Father, that we have told to shove off and get out of our lives, this same God has come and sought us in love. The eternal Son of God, took on flesh, the son incarnate, Jesus of Nazareth, fully God, fully man, lived the life that we should’ve lived, dies on the cross, receiving the punishment that we should’ve received, was raised from the dead proving that his claims were true, vindicating the claims of who he was and what his mission was, and ascended to heaven, and is our advocate now. And he calls us to repent of our sins and to trust him. To turn from serving ourselves and to trust fully in what He’s done on the cross...and so to be reconciled back to Him...to be reconciled back to God.”