

iii. Loyal obedience to the Gospel is not an outlier!

a) 2 Cor. 9:12-13

b) 2 Thess. 1:8

c) 1 Peter 4:17

B. This obedience of the Gentiles is part of Paul's priestly service.

i. Rom. 15:16

ii. Romans 12:1-2, 9-21



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### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- What might believers learn from the story of the Jewish rabbi talking to the Methodist pastor in Greenville provide us with a sense of how the Gospel calls us to live? What has changed for believers in the last half century? How might these changes be good for the church?
- Explain what it means to say that the Gospel is "the gospel of God"?
- Since Christ means *anointed one*, why is it okay to read "God's good, promised King," when we read that Jesus is the Christ?
- What is the Ascension of Christ? How central in Scripture is it to the Gospel? How might a lack of focus on it reduce the Gospel's impact?
- In Romans 1, how does the Resurrection and Ascension make the Gospel relevant to every people group in a way that Jesus' birth as a son of David did not?
- "Obedience" and "faith" are two words not often linked together in Evangelical culture. What does Paul mean by "the obedience of faith"? What does the Gospel call us to obey?

## Gospel Clarity: What is the Gospel? Why do we need it?

Jerry Cisar — February 18, 2024

**Text: Romans 1:1-7**

### Introduction

#### I. The Gospel is about God's Reign (1)

A. This is the "under the hood" view of what we've been saying...

- i. The Gospel is *the Gospel of God*.
  - a) A gospel was *the proclamation of a new ruler who will bring about a changed way of life or society*.
  - b) A gospel was *the proclamation of a ruler's birth, coming of age, or enthronement, including his rise to power, speeches, decrees, and acts which bring fulfillment to the longings of the world for justice and peace*.
    - Isaiah 52:7 "Your God reigns."
- ii. *The Gospel is the proclamation that the rule of God has been restored to the world in Jesus the King. It includes the story of how it came about through His coming, life, teaching, death, resurrection, and ascension.*

#### II. The Gospel Fulfills Many Promises (2)

A. Predictions of a ruler's reign as validation.

B. When you read "Christ," think "God's good, promised king."

- i. “Christ” and “Messiah” mean anointed one.
- ii. People were anointed for two reasons in the OT:
  - a) To be Priest
  - b) To be King
- iii. This promise of a future king was chockfull of good things:
  - a) Isaiah 2:2-4
  - b) Isaiah 9:7
  - c) Isaiah 61:1-3

### III. The Gospel is About Christ’s Ascension (3-4)

- A. What is the Gospel about or regarding?
  - i. “His Son.”
  - ii. There are 2 things about Jesus listed:
    - a) *The earthly Jesus was, according to his human nature, a descendant of David. Hence, the King of the Jews.*
    - b) *The resurrected human Jesus was appointed to be the Son of God in power by the resurrection from among the dead ones.*
  - iii. The central content of the Gospel is about the reign of Jesus at the right hand of God... His ascension... His rule.
- B. The Gospel Paul received and passed on (1 Cor. 15:1-8).
  - i. What appears to be missing here in Paul’s Gospel summary?

- a) Paul’s primary concern in this chapter is belief in the resurrection—some kind of bodily resurrection.
  - Paul digresses to explain his role as the 13<sup>th</sup> apostle (9-11).
  - Then in v12-23, Paul gets to his main point.
- b) Notice where he ends his Gospel message (15:24-27)
  - **V25 is the Ascension!**
- C. Paul’s Gospel Hymn (Philippians 2:5-10)

### IV. The Gospel Calls Forth Loyal Obedience (5-6)

- A. Amanda in *Tales of the Kingdom*: “The Kingdom is not only here. It is anywhere the King is and is obeyed.”
- i. The Gospel called Paul as an apostle... now it calls the rest of us Gentiles through Him to **“the obedience of faith”** (v5).
  - a) The significance of this phrase is heightened by the fact that not only do we find it here at the beginning of *Romans*, it is also at the end (Rom. 16:25-27).
- ii. “Obedience of faith” could mean one of 4 things:
  - a) It could be “the obedience to *the* faith.”
  - b) It could be “the obedience which faith produces or requires.” (NIV: “the obedience that comes from faith.”)
  - c) It could mean, “obedience, namely faith.”
  - d) Given the context of Christ’s enthronement in the heavenlies... “believing obedience” or “loyal obedience.”