

BIBLE

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Biweekly Devotional: Top 10 Themes Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest news this world has ever heard. Though it is one story, it consists of many life changing themes that are critical to living a life in Christ. Here are the Top 10 Themes Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ from beginning to end.

Day One (#10) We Are All Sinners, Separated From God By Sin, But Redeemed By The Death Of Jesus Christ Whom He Raised From The Dead - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ. Romans 3:23-24

The book of Romans, a letter the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians of Rome, is a book of great theological significance. It explains the importance of Christ's life and death and what it means for our eternity. One of the foundational truths it teaches is that we are all sinners and separated from God by sin. However, Christ's death and resurrection bridges that separation so we can be children of God. Reach Romans 3:9-31 to learn how Paul explains the purpose behind Jesus' death and resurrection.

- In verse 9, Paul begins to make the case that we are all sinners by relying on Old Testament Scripture from Psalms and Isaiah. In verses 10-12 Paul quotes scripture that uses the term "no one" or "not even one" six times. Why do you think Paul was so emphatic to make the point that not one of us is perfect?
- Next, he begins listing parts of our bodies that are sinful. In what ways are our tongues, lips and mouths sinful?
- In other devotionals we have talked of the importance of "fearing" God. What does Paul say about fearing God in verse 18?
- In verse 19, what does Paul say is the purpose of the law?
- Why does the law silence every mouth?
- What was the law designed to make us conscious of?
- Though righteousness can't be earned because we are all sinful, how does Paul say in verse 22 that it can be given?

- Because at the time many Jews and Gentiles were coming to faith in Jesus Christ, Paul takes the opportunity to point out that we are all the same in three ways. What are they (verses 23-24)?
- Paul concludes by saying that though there are both Jew and Gentiles, there is only one God. How is it he justifies us: Through faith in Jesus Christ or through our being perfect under the law?

Pray and thank God that though we cannot be perfect under the law, he has made another way for us to be reconciled to him. Thank him for sending Jesus Christ to die for your sins.

Day Two (#9) God Sent His Son To Save Us By Paying Our Sin Debt Because He Loves Us - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17

Perhaps the most well-known verse in all the Bible is John 3:16. However, it is even more powerful when read in context with the early part of the chapter. Read John 3:1-21 to learn how Jesus explained to one of the leading Pharisees of the time that no one can go to heaven unless they are born again.

- A leading Pharisee, Nicodemus, wanted to better understand what Jesus was teaching, so he went to him at night to speak with him. Why do you suppose Nicodemus went to Jesus at night?
- Do you suppose there are people in your network who have questions about the teaching of Jesus, but who are too embarrassed to ask or afraid to admit they want to know?
- What startling admission does Nicodemus make in verse 2?
- Jesus says that no one can understand the kingdom of God unless they are what?
- This is obviously a new teaching for Nicodemus because he can only think of physical birth. What other kind of birth does Jesus explain in verses 5-6?
- How does Jesus compare the wind and Holy Spirit in verse 8?
- In verse 16, what does John say God did, and why did he do it?
- Verse 17 is equally powerful because it disproves the feeling some people have that God wants to punish people. What does verse 17 say Jesus came to do?
- According to verse 18, what must one do in order to NOT be condemned?
- John compares Jesus to light because he exposes things and shows the way. Why, though, does he say people prefer the darkness (verses 19-20)?

Pray and thank God for sending his son to die for your sins that you may have life through Christ. Thank him that Jesus came to the world to save it, not to condemn it.

Day Three (#8) Faith In Jesus Christ Is The Only Way To Be Saved - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

As Jesus' time on earth was coming to an end, he went away from the crowds with his disciples to celebrate the Passover Feast. Today's reading comes from the book of John, where the Apostle John recounts those last hours with Jesus as he was trying to prepare his disciples for what was to come and comfort them. Read John 14:1-14 to learn some of the things Jesus felt it was important to pass along to them in their final hours together.

- Jesus begins by comforting his disciples and letting them know what is to come. What is his first command to them?
- Next, he lets them know he is going to heaven to prepare a place for them. What promise does he give them in verse 2?
- What does Jesus mean, "You know the way to the place where I am going"?
- What three things does Jesus claim to be at the beginning of verse 6?
- What bold statement does Jesus make about himself at the end of the verse?
- Some people feel that Jesus' claim to be the only way to God is not very inclusive. Does the scripture describe another way to God? If there is in fact only one way, wouldn't it be important for Jesus to say that?
- If there is another way to God, why would God send Jesus to die for our sins?
- Next, Jesus says that since the disciples have seen him, they have seen the Father (verse 9). How does he explain his connection to the Father in verses 10-11?
- The disciples had never seen anyone do the things Jesus did here on earth, yet, in verse 12, he makes a shocking statement about what they will do. What does he claim?
- Why will they be able to do greater things than he can once he goes to the Father? What help is he sending them?
- What promise does he make in verses 13-14?

Pray and thank God that he sent his only son to die for your sins so that you could be seen as sinless and live forever with him in heaven. Ask for his help to let others see that this is not to the destruction of all others, but that Jesus actually came to die for all who would believe, making it in fact one of the most inclusive acts in the history of humanity.

Day Four (#7) You Will Be Saved If You Believe In Your Heart And Declare With Your Mouth That Jesus Is Lord - If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

The night Jesus was born, the angels declared to the shepherds his birth was good news of great joy for all the people. God's plan was simply to send Jesus for all people, so those who believe would be saved. In Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, he describes how easy the process is to accept the free gift of Christ's death on the cross as the forgiveness for our sins so we can be saved. Read Romans 10:1-13 to understand how Paul explains this process.

- Paul begins by saying that he prays that God will save all the Israelites because they love God, but they have tried to get to God by putting their faith in their adherence to the law. How did Paul describe this in verse 3?

- What great news does Paul declare in verse 4?
- In verse 9, Paul lays out a very simple two-step process whereby people can be saved. What is it?
- Why are these two steps important according to verse 10?
- Verse 11 goes so far as to say anyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. Does that mean on earth or at the judgement?
- Paul again declares salvation through Christ is available to both Jew and Gentile if they believe. Why does he say this (verse 12)?
- Verse 13 states very clearly who will be saved. What does Paul say?

If you haven't already, pray and declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that you will be saved. If you have done this already, pray and thank God for giving us a clear and easy way to be forgiven of our sins so that our eternal salvation doesn't depend on our behavior, but on Christ's sacrifice.

Day Five (#6) There Is Eternal Life For Those Who Receive Jesus' Gift Of Salvation - Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24

Jesus' death on the cross provided forgiveness for our sins so that we could be reconciled with God. Read John 5:16-30 to learn more about what else Jesus' death and resurrection means for those who believe.

- One of the things Jesus did that got him in trouble with the religious leaders of the day was to heal the sick on the Sabbath. How does he answer them in verse 17?
- Did this explanation satisfy them or just make them angrier? Why?
- In verses 19-23, Jesus explains that he could only do these things (healings) because of the Father and his relationship with him. In these few verses, Jesus managed to share the truth of the Father as well as greatly offend the religious leaders of the day. What statements about their Father/Son relationship does Jesus make that they would find offensive?
- In verse 24, Jesus takes it a step further and says that if people believe in him, they will have eternal life with God in heaven and have crossed from what to what?
- Jesus then goes on to explain what will happen in the future. What does Jesus say he has authority to do in verse 27?
- Who does Jesus say will hear his voice in verse 28?
- What does he say will happen to them?
- Who does Jesus say he seeks to please in verse 30?

Pray and thank God that he made a way so that you could live with him forever in heaven.

Weekend Reading: Themes Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ

There are so many important themes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we couldn't possibly include them all. Here are some that didn't make our list, but that we should always remember:

- Through Christ We Can Live Lives Of Great Eternal Consequence - If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:7-8
- God Hears Your Prayers And Will Answer Them – Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:24
- We Can Know God's Will - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2
- Satan Seeks To Destroy You And Take All God Has Given You - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10
- No One Has An Excuse For Not Believing In God – For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:20

Day Six (#5) Nothing Can Separate Us From The Love Of God - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

In the book of Romans, Paul spends a good deal of time talking about God's love for us. Read Romans 8:31-39 to see what Paul says about God's love for us and how once we are his children, nothing can separate us from that love.

- Paul begins this passage by pointing out that God is on our side. Can anything stand against you if God is on your side?
- In verse 32 Paul begins by suggesting that God has already given us his most precious gift. What gift is he referring to?
- And if he has given his most precious gift, what gift would he withhold from us?
- In verse 33, Paul begins to make the case that once we accept Christ, there is no one who can accuse of wrongdoing. Where does Paul say that Jesus is now?
- What does he say Jesus is doing?
- If we can never be condemned (separated from God), can we ever be separated from God's love?
- What seven examples does Paul list as things that cannot separate us from the love of God in verse 34?
- What does Paul call us in verse 37?
- He then goes on to list ten additional things that cannot separate us from the love of God in verse 38. What are they?

- Do you ever feel separated from God and his love? What is most important to remember during these times, your feelings or God's word?

Pray and thank God that he is on your side and that nothing can separate you from him or his love.

Day Seven (#4) We Must Share The Good News Of Jesus Christ With The World, And Obey Jesus' Teachings - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus' disciple Matthew recorded Jesus' last words of instruction to the disciples before he returned to heaven. Read Matthew 28:16-20 to see what Jesus instructed them to do and the promise he gave them.

- In verse 17, Matthew records that when the disciples met Jesus in Galilee, they worshiped him, but what does it say about some of them?
- Why do you think some could still doubt with Jesus right in front of them?
- Have you ever tried to share the good news of Jesus with someone who was so set against believing, that no evidence would change their minds?
- What does Jesus claim he has been given in verse 18?
- Who gave him that authority?
- As a result of that authority, what three things does Jesus command them to do in verse 19?
- What does it mean to "make a disciple"?
- Why is it important people be baptized after becoming a believer?
- Even though Jesus' death on the cross has given us grace so that though we sin, we can be seen as perfect when we are covered by Jesus' blood, Jesus still tells them to "obey everything I have commanded you." Why do you suppose it is important that we obey everything?
- What comforting promise does Jesus make in verse 20?

Pray and ask God to help you make disciples of all the earth and also to obey all that he has taught us. Ask him to open your eyes to anyone who is in need of hearing about him as well as any area where you need to be more obedient to his word. Thank him that we can know he will be with us always.

Day Eight (#3) We Are To Love Each Other - A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34

In Jesus' final hours with his disciples, he told them what was about to occur and gave them encouragement for the days ahead. Read John 13:31-38 to learn the new command Jesus gave them so that the world would know they were his disciples.

- Today's reading begins just as Judas has left the room to go betray Jesus. Why didn't Jesus try to stop him? Was it part of God's plan?
- What does Jesus tell his disciples at the beginning of verse 33?
- What does Jesus warn them of in verse 33? Where was he going that they couldn't come?
- Why did Jesus command them to love one another?
- Can people be command to love others?
- Are we to love others even if we don't feel loving toward them?
- According to verse 35, why is it important that the disciples love one another?
- Why might it be important that the disciples love everyone and not just those they feel loving toward?
- Could Jesus have been commanding this because he knew how the disciples might feel after seeing Jesus crucified?

Pray and thank God for his great love toward you. Ask him to give you strength to love those around you, even those you don't feel loving toward.

Day Nine (#2) We Have The Holy Spirit Living In Us To Help Us – If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – 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

Today's reading, like yesterday's, comes as Jesus' life on earth is nearing an end. At this point, Jesus only has a few hours left with his disciples. Read John 14:15-31 to learn the information so critical Jesus wanted to spend his waning hours explaining it to them.

- How does Jesus ask the disciples to show they love him (verse 15)?
- What word does Jesus use to describe the Holy Spirit (verse 15)?
- Why can the world not accept the Holy Spirit?
- Why can Christians (verse 17)?
- In verse 18, Jesus wants to make sure the disciples know they will not be left as what?
- In verse 20 what day is Jesus referring to? What happened on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)?
- Who does Jesus say are those who love him?
- What does Jesus say will happen to those who love him?
- How does God make his home with a person (verse 23)?
- In verse 29, why does Jesus say he is explaining this to the disciples?

Pray and thank God for the incredible gift of his Holy Spirit so we can know we are his children and know his will.

Day Ten (#1) Jesus Christ Will Return And All His Children Will Live With Him Eternally – And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.
Revelation 21:3

Late in his life, the Apostle John was sent to live on the island of Patmos. There, he was visited several times by angels who revealed information on the end times of man to him. Read Revelations 21:1-5 to learn about John’s vision concerning earth at the end of time.

- What are the first two things John reports seeing in verse 1?
- What had happened to the first heaven and earth?
- What is different about the new earth (verse 1)?
- What does John see coming down from heaven (verse 2)? What does he compare it to?
- What does the voice from heaven say in verse 3?
- What four things will be eliminated according to verse 4?
- According to the person on the throne, what is he making things (verse 5)?
- What assurance does he then give?

Pray and thank God that because of Jesus’ death on the cross, you can live with him eternally.

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