

August Teaching Theme: What is the Gospel?

讲员 Speaker: 陈云传道 Jacob Chen

题目 Topic: “The Depths of God’s Gospel”

经文 Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Monthly Theme: This month’s theme is “the Gospel” and its implications. **The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that Jesus is King and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever**, thus we must give our allegiance to King Jesus. Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate - a downpayment of our inheritance in the Kingdom. **The Spirit applies *the benefits of the gospel* to those who respond with *allegiance!***

This week we are going to talk about the ***Gospel benefit “Ransom.”*** In the Bible, this idea of “ransom” is closely linked with the idea of “Redemption” so we will look at both together. To be “redeemed” means someone ‘secured your deliverance/liberation.’ Similarly, ‘ransom’ has this meaning with the connotation of “payment” to secure one’s deliverance. Jesus through his sacrificial death on the cross has secured our deliverance/liberation from slavery to the power of sin and the curse of the law.

Resources:

Bible Project Video: [The Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (English) (5:48)

Bible Project Video: [The Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (Chinese) (4:22)

****If you have not watched this video yet as a group do so this week****

For 陈云传道 Jacob Chen, see the Email Attachment.

[Sermon Video](#)

Important Notes (from Pastor Will):

Notes About Question 4:

- In the Gospel, we see the “denationalizing” of the people of God as its message and benefits are extended to all people. God desires all people to be apart of his people which isn’t bound to nation-states of any kind.
- The Gospel is a **radically exclusive message** (give your allegiance to King Jesus) that creates a **radically inclusive community** (all people). As the people of God, we should both be calling people to follow Jesus and breaking down the social barriers of the world as “ministers of reconciliation.”
- With this in mind, we must pursue multiethnic and multi-socioeconomic lives and church bodies. Here are some follow up questions to ask: Do you only run in circles and places where people “like you” dominate? What ways are you pursuing to break social barriers in your life and live life with others outside your experiences?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passage?
2. 福音的焦点是只有一位神、在神和人之间只有一位中保。这种唯一性/排他性，在现代的多元文化中对传福音是一个挑战。你在跟别人分享福音的时候，有遇到这方面的挑战吗？你是如何回应的？The focus of the gospel is that there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and man. This uniqueness/exclusiveness is a challenge to evangelism in modern multiculturalism. Do you encounter this challenge when sharing the gospel with others? How did you respond?
3. What does the idea of being “redeemed/ransomed” and “bought at a price” tell you about God’s Character and yourself?
4. What does the fact that “all people” can be a part of the people of God through faith tell you about God’s character and desires?
5. 救恩是一个免费的礼物，但是它是一个会改变生命的礼物。你是否发现一些群体在传讲一个不需要改变生命的福音？你要如何跟在这个群体里的人分享你的观点？Salvation is a free gift, but it is a life-changing gift. Have you found that some groups are preaching a gospel that does not need to change their lives? How do you share your views with people in this group?
6. **Memorization Tool:** What is the Gospel? How do we respond to the Gospel? What do followers of Jesus look forward to? What is the Gospel benefit “Justification”? What is the Gospel benefit “Reconciliation”? What is the Gospel benefit “Ransom”?
 - a. The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that **Jesus is King** and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever.
 - b. We are called to respond by giving our **allegiance** (inclusive of faith, loyalty, trust) to King Jesus.
 - c. Our hope is looking forward to Jesus return establishing the **New Heaven and New Earth**, where those who give King Jesus allegiance will reign with God forever.
 - d. The Gospel benefit “justification”: Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are **declared not guilty** being freed from both the penalty of sin and the power of sin.
 - e. The Gospel benefit “reconciliation”: God through Jesus has **healed the fractured relationship between God and humanity**. From this place, we can seek reconciliation in our human relationships.
 - f. The Gospel benefit “ransom”: God through Jesus’ death on the cross has **bought your out of slavery to sin** and “the curse of the law” and now empowers you through the Holy Spirit to live as the “new humanity.”

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

"我劝你，第一要为万人恳求、祷告、代求、祝谢；为君王和一切在位的，也该如此，使我们可以敬虔、端正、平安无事地度日。这是好的，在神我们救主面前可蒙悦纳。"他愿意万人得救，明白真道。"因为只有一位神，在神和人中间，只有一位中保，乃是降世为人的基督耶稣

；他舍自己作万人的赎价，到了时候，这事必证明出来。我为此奉派作传道的，作使徒，作外邦人的师傅，教导他们相信，学习真道。我说的是真话，并不是谎言。”

提摩太前书 2-7

深哉，神的福音

The depth of God's Gospel

陈云传道

福音深入浅出。

提前

1, 神愿万人得救之和唯一的中保耶稣。所有的人，得救途径是唯一的的就是耶稣。

a, 愿万人得救

-神是救主：父神这里指。

-重复的“万人／所有的人”万人在彼后提到。“主所应许的尚未成就，有人以为他是耽延，其实不是耽延，乃是宽容你们，不愿有一人沉沦，乃愿人人都悔改。”

彼得后书 3:9

不是耽延而是给罪人悔改的机会。因为要人人被救。

b, 唯一的中保是耶稣，不是条条道路通罗马

-中保：在两方之间沟通、行事的中间人。因为中保知神知人，成神人之前的桥梁。

-赎价：一个人用一笔钱把另一个人、从某种困境中救赎出来。以至于我们可以不至灭亡反得永生赎价是付给神的。不是付给撒旦。赎价是从神公义的手中。

“耶稣说：「我就是道路、真理、生命；若不借着我，没有人能到父那里去。”

约翰福音 14:6

c, 传福音的应用

-传福音的负担，神愿我们家人得救，同事同学朋友，不同种族得救。即然我们是神的儿女我们应有和神同样的心愿。对灵魂有负担，唯一的得求就是耶稣

-传福音的自信，既使被拒绝不要气馁，不是我们在推销次品，而是无价之保。

笔者：不要把世界上的好处加入福音的信息来诱人进入神。圣经好的无比。

-传福音的焦点，并非只传爱，全面的福音。讲耶稣，付赎价，救人们

2, 被神拯救和明白真道

a, 福音中被动和主动的平衡互补：

-福音的被动方面（神的工作）：被神救。落水后不是靠自己得救，因自己无能自救，神差游泳健将就是耶稣救你出水。也许给错觉就是我们自己不需做任何事情。

-福音的主动方面，明白真道，需要人去寻找真道，读圣经，和与福音相称的生命。明白真道是知识十生命

b, 平衡互补的原因：救恩的性质

-救恩是一个礼物，但它是一个一定会改变生命的礼物，不是外在的礼物而是内在的礼物，能改变生命，基督徒是新造的人。

笔者：随着圣灵的带领行事为人和福音相称。主动方面。

c, 传福音的应用：敬畏和谦卑

-有人易信有人难信，信与否是奥秘，我们只管坦然，不管传给人信否，我们总要去传。存敬畏和谦卑的心。

The depth of god's gospel

Jacob Chen

1 Timothy 2:1-7

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles."

1 Timothy 2:1-7 NIV

The gospel deep enough for an elegant to swim

Shallow enough for a child not to drown

Depth of the riches of wisdom and knowledge of God Romans 11:33

Believe in Jesus you will have eternal life John 3:16

1. God's desire to save all and the only one mediator

1 Tim 2:4-5

The balance between all and only

All people—means ALL

Yet only ONE way to be saved, that is through Jesus, not 'all roads lead to Rome'

A. God wants all people to be saved

God is our savior

Recurrence of 'all people' 2:1,4,7

Similar saying in other part of the Bible, eg: 2 Peter 3:8 God intends not anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance

God's promise of second coming, judge the world. He is not slow, but patient to give every sinner a chance to repent because his desire to save all

B. The only mediator Jesus

Mediator: a go-between between two parties

Only one god yet we cannot interact with Him, we need mediators, the only mediator is Jesus.

John 14:6 I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me

The emphasis of man Jesus, since mediator's humanity aspect, as well as the divine character of Jesus as son of god, to represent God.

Ransom: money paid to save a person from a bond

Mediator provides the ransom, such as a slave or a debtor, precisely— Jesus paid the price of death for our sins

Paid to Satan?

Paid to God? More reasonable

Sin is the problem between man and god, Jesus's sacrifice is paid to God, mentioned in Hebrews

C. Application on evangelism

Passion for evangelism:

Any one in your family, friends, people of all races and cultures, not saved yet?

As God's children, we share the same desire of God

As if all humanity has the deadly disease, yet only one medicine can cure it, and it's free.

Our sins are the disease

The cure is the gospel

Confidence in evangelism:

Afraid of rejection before sharing the gospel—remember that you are not a salesman of inferior products, because the gospel doesn't lose its value because of his or her rejection

Focus of evangelism:

Only talking about god's love is not enough, not the whole gospel

Jesus is the Only mediator, can pay the ransom for sinners

2. To be saved and to come to knowledge of truth

To be saved: the tension between god's work and man's effort

Passive aspect of gospel (god's work) to be saved by god, not the result of man's effort, the fundamental difference of Christianity w other religions.

A metaphor of man drowning, he can be saved by knowing how to swim by moving your arms and legs (own effort to fulfill the requirements of law), yet he needs a savior, a great swimmer, to save him from drowning—to be saved!!

So, just passively waiting? Doing nothing? No

Come to knowledge

Active aspect of God (human's responsibility): to come to a knowledge of truth= knowledge +life

The gospel requires us to STUDY the truth, we need to read bible, share the whole truth of gospel to seekers, apply that knowledge in our life, so we can understand the truth. Therefore the truth requires our repentance

This is the active part of man

B. Reason for balance: nature of salvation

Salvation is a gift, sometimes this statement gives people wrong impression, as if a mailman delivering a package

But this gift must change our lives

Indeed salvation is a gift because we are unable to earn it

But this gift is not from the outside but to the inside. The law is written in our hearts we are new creations. Repentance is the prerequisite of salvation. Only after we realize our sins, to repent, to knowledge, then we can be saved

This gift is not a cheap one, a saved person will not continuously live in sins

C. Application on evangelism—awe and humble

Some believe w some knowledge of truth

Some believe after knowing much

Yet while some still don't believe even knowing a lot

It is a mystery how a person can accept the gospel—god's work and man's response

Our job is to preach, to teach, to lead others, if someone accepts the gospel, it's not how great we are, it's the work of God

This mystery is truly humbling