**We All Need The Gospel**

***Romans 1:18–2:16***

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***The Gospel***

* **The gospel is a birth announcement and a victory announcement.** (“The gospel . . . regarding his *Son*, who as to his earthly life was *a descendant of David*, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by *his resurrection from the dead*: Jesus Christ our Lord,” Rom 1:1–4).
* **The gospel requires a response.** (“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings *salvation to everyone who believes*: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is *revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last*, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith,’” Rom 1:16–17).

***Objection 1: I don’t need the gospel because I am not a sinner!***

* We think sin only includes being a murderer or rapist.
* But God’s verdict is different, which Paul explains: “The wrath of God is showing from heaven upon all those who are “irreverent to God” and “un-straight-forward” people who suppress the truth in their “un-straight-forwardness” (Rom 1:18)
	+ Wrath *is* *showing*
	+ Upon all those who are “irreverent to God”
	+ Upon all those who are “un-straight-forward,” i.e., they suppress the truth
* **So, what’s this truth they ignore? The Existence of God—as evidenced by the creation!**
* “Although they know God exists, they neither give glory to God nor thank him”; Instead, they worship gods they create.
	+ Idolatry is foolish.
	+ God vividly depicts such foolishness: “[A person] cuts down cedars or perhaps takes a cypress or oak . . . Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, ‘Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.’ From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, ‘Save me; you are my god.’ Such people know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their mind is closed so they cannot understand” (Isa 44:14–18)
* Punishment
	+ God gave them over to their own *desires* [*epithumia*] of their hearts; they worship creatures (1:24–25)
	+ God gave them over to dishonorable *passions* [*pathos*]; they confuse gender identities (1:26–27)
	+ God gave them over to thoughtless *minds* [*nous*]; they commit acts of wickedness and approve those who practice them (1:28–32)

***Objection 2: I don’t need the gospel because I am a saint!***

* God says, “You who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things” (2:1)
* On the other hand, God’s judgment is based on truth (2:2); so those who judge others, but do the same act, will not escape God’s judgment (2:3)
* **Their crime is this: *Showing contempt for God’s kindness*; that is, instead of humbly accepting God’s kindness and repenting, they are arrogant in their self-righteousness, not thinking of God or the need for God (2:4).**
* So God pays them their just reward (2:5–6): those who seek immortality, He gives life (2:7); those who seek self-glory and reject truth, He punishes (2:8)
* Regardless of whether they are Jews or Gentiles (2:9–10), God doesn’t show favoritism (2:11); so having the law or not is not an advantage (2:12–15)
* What matters is what one does with the gospel: “God judges these hidden acts of people, today, through the gospel of Christ Jesus” (2:16), that is, through his birth/victory proclamation and a person’s obedience to it.

***Summary***

* Instead of saying, “I don’t need the gospel because I am not a sinner,” we need to say, “Oh gosh, I need the gospel; I am a sinner”—given over to selfish desires, dishonorable passions, and a thoughtless mind.
* Instead of saying, “I don’t need the gospel because I am a saint,” we need to say, “Oh my, I am a self-righteous person who does the very acts that I tell others not to do; I need the gospel.”

God shows no partiality to our religious background—Jew or Gentile. He looks at our hearts and judges us based upon whether we are obedient by trusting in the Son.

**Theme: “Accept one another just as Christ accepted you for the glory of God” (Rom 15:7)**

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