

Week 1 Review - Beginning with the Gospel

- The gospel is both the means through which we enter into the faith and grow in it.
- Anglicanism is a *middle way* (via media) between Roman Catholicism and other Protestant traditions. It is also a *comprehensive way*. First it seeks to engage the head, heart, and hands (*intellect, will, emotion, physical*) through worship & practice. Anglicanism also seeks to make space for the evangelical, sacramental, & charismatic strands of the faith.
- We value our tradition as it helps us better follow Jesus, but Jesus always comes first.
- The gospel is said to be simple enough that a child can wade in it like a puddle, and so profound an elephant can swim it. It essentially means “good news” and can be summed up as either, Jesus in our place, or even more simply, Jesus.
- The Gospel is the good news of God loving & saving lost mankind through the ministry in word and deed of his Son, Jesus Christ. *To Be a Christian*
- Through the person and work of Jesus Christ, God fully accomplishes salvation for us, reducing us from judgement for sin into fellowship with him, and then restores the creation in which we can enjoy our new life together with him forever. *Tim Keller*
- The gospel is objective: it’s based upon the historical fact of Jesus’ death and resurrection. It is not our past or good works that matter, but Jesus’.
- The gospel is experiential: the reality of God’s love in Jesus and the free offer of restored relationship with him, is to be experienced and savored through the Holy Spirit.
- The gospel is individual: it speaks directly to us as individuals inviting us into a restored and personal relationship with God.
- The gospel is corporate: it is not just about the salvation of individuals, but rather the redemption of all creation and the formation of God’s family, the Church.
- Christianity isn’t primarily a creed, code of conduct, or system of religious worship - it’s a person, Jesus. and a personal relationship with him.
- A Christian knows Jesus as friend, trusts him as Savior, follows him as Lord (Ph. 3:17-19).
- The gospel is all of grace and even our response to it requires God’s grace. Yet we must respond through repentance and faith. (Rev. 3:20)
- The Christian life is summed up in the Heidelberg Catechism as Guilt, Grace, & Gratitude. Christ’s grace sets us free from the guilt of sin and we now live in gratitude to God.

Theological Terms in Simple Language:

Sin: selfishness, self-centeredness. *It’s like the earth trying to be the sun.*

Grace: God’s unearned love and favor towards us. *It’s free, no strings attached.*

Repentance: a change (of mind, attitude, direction) turning away from sin and back towards God. *It’s like returning home to God to celebrate being his child.*

Faith: a simple childlike trust in the goodness of God in Jesus. *It’s like resting on the doctor’s table or sitting in a cab, letting the expert do the work. It’s the cord that the power travels through to light the lamp.*

Conversion: a new beginning that represents a monumental change. *It’s something that happens once, and continues to happen.*

Justification: to be declared innocent and in right relationship with God. *It’s like a birth, it only needs to happen once but it’s implications last a lifetime.*

Sanctification: to grow in likeness to Jesus ie holiness. *It’s like human growth and development, from birth it continues for an entire lifetime,*

Suggestions for Next Week:

Christian Basics: A Handbook of Christian Faith by John Stott

Chapters 1-3 (especially Chapter 1 review A,B,C, and D)

To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism at www.anglicanchurch.net in Resources

Section: *Beginning with Christ*

Read through the Apostle’s Creed. Do you have any questions about any part of it?

Pray that God will help you know, love, and enjoy Him more during the week.