



*“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”*

**– Paul, 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-2**

What’s “under the hood” matters most to a car enthusiast. The engine drives everything else. The same is true for the Gospel. A Gospel-driven church is motivated by Jesus’ Good News more than preferences or personalities. If you “pop the hood” of Bible Center, you will find that the Gospel drives everything.

“The truth of the Gospel is the principal article of all Christian doctrine.” – **Martin Luther**

What is the Gospel? It simply translates as “Good News.” It’s an announcement of all God has done and will do.

At Bible Center, we like to refer to the Gospel with two perspectives: zoomed-in and zoomed-out.

## ***The Gospel Zoomed-In*** (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

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1. Christ died for our sins (proven by His burial)
2. Christ raised for our eternal life (proven by His appearances)

A simpler definition: *God saves sinners.*

A broader definition: *The Gospel is the Good News that the living God, who demands perfection of all humankind, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world, to live a sinless life, to suffer and die on the cross as a substitute for our sins (absorbing the judgment we rightfully deserve), to rise again, to ascend back into heaven, and to grant forgiveness, righteousness, His Spirit, and eternal life at the moment anyone repents and believes.*

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### NOTES

## Session #1

# OUR GOSPEL-FUELED VISION

"The Gospel is something that God has accomplished. It's not something that we do. Our faith is not the Gospel. Our repentance is not the Gospel. But they are the effects of it. So we could say that the Gospel is an indicative, not an imperative. In other words, it's an accomplishment by God; it's not a command to us. The Gospel is what God has achieved, not something that we are to attempt." – **Sam Storms**

At Bible Center, we strive to *not* reduce the Gospel to...

**Formalism**. . . . Church activities and service only

**Legalism**. . . . Performing good works only

**Mysticism**. . . . Emotional and spiritual experiences only

**Activism**. . . . Participation in Christian causes only

**Biblicism**. . . . A mastery of content and theology only

**Psychology-ism**. . . . The healing of emotional needs only

**Social-ism**. . . . A network of fulfilling relationships only

## **The Gospel Zoomed-Out** (*Colossians 2:11-23*)

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The whole Bible is about one big story...

### 1. **God created us** (*2:15-19*).

Creation describes how life was meant to be lived. It provides us with a glimpse into what holy (holistic) living looks like from God's perspective, according to His intentions (*Genesis 1-2*).

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" – **Abraham Kuyper**

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## 2. Sin broke us (2:13-14, 21).

In Genesis 1-2, God creates the world and says, "It's good." What Adam and Eve experienced up until that point was *shalom*: peace, universal flourishing, wholeness and delight. Everything was in harmony with God.

However, their sin threw sand in the gears. *Shalom* was shattered: physically, spiritually, socially, psychologically, and culturally. Ever since, things have been falling apart. This explains how life became the distorted mess that it is today. It demonstrates why things are not the way they are supposed to be (*Genesis 3*).

## 3. Jesus saves us (2:15-19).

The story of salvation shows how we find meaning in this life and find eternal life through Jesus Christ. It explains the way back to holiness and wholeness. This is the subject matter of most of the Bible (*Genesis 4 to Revelation 18*). From cover to cover, the Bible unfolds the dramatic story of how salvation came through Jesus Christ. (*John 5:39-40; Luke 24:25-27; Luke 24:44-47*).

## 4. Jesus will heal us (2:20-23).

Revelation 19-22 points to a future restoration. Because of Jesus' resurrection, God is using this journey through life to prepare us for His perfect presence. In that place there will be no sickness, sin, or despair for all eternity (*Revelation 19-22*).

The emphasis of verse 20 is much more than our individualized salvation. The cross was certainly our bridge to God, but it was much more than that. It is the bridge to the restoration of all things. Because Jesus died on the cross and was raised, He promises that creation itself will be healed in the future. Romans 8 reminds us that Jesus will restore all things to Himself. No more: hurricanes, blizzards, tornadoes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, cancer, diabetes, or abuse.

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## NOTES

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# OUR GOSPEL-FUELED VISION

## Summary

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Remember how the Bible started in Genesis? Two people in a perfect garden. They rebelled and were cast out of the garden. Yet, in God's love, He created a way of salvation for those people, symbolized first in the Old Testament sacrifices but fulfilled in Jesus himself. Thankfully the Bible promises that God will restore all things better than they were in the Garden of Eden. How is this possible? Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross!

Why is it important that we maintain a holistic view of the Gospel? Because it reminds us that God wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, and those who believe will be united with him forever in a renewed heaven and earth.

The driving force of Bible Center Church is to see the Gospel transform everything—ourselves, our families, our church, our city, and our world. From this vision flows our mission, vision and strategy...

### Our Gospel-Driven Mission

**TO GLORIFY GOD BY PRODUCING  
MORE MATURING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**

### Our Gospel-Driven Vision

**TO BE A CHURCH  
CHARLESTON CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT**

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**GLORIFYING GOD BY PRODUCING  
MORE MATURING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**