

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. After looking at the Christian heritage of our country, what should our response as Christians be today?

2. How can we bring about change in America as Christians today?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The Gospel, or good news, of Jesus Christ is that He did what no one could ever do. You see, God loves us, but ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God, every human being has sinned and therefore cannot come into God’s presence because He is holy and perfect. As much as we try, we cannot bridge the gap to God because of our sinful nature. We can never be good enough to reach God. Good works, religion, philosophy and morality all fall short of God’s perfection.

God loves us so much that He sent His Own Son, Jesus Christ, to bridge the gap (John 3:16). Jesus did what no one else could ever do because He is both God and human, born to Mary. He took upon Himself the punishment we deserve, dying on the cross in our place. Now, through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we can come before a holy God. That is the good news! We enter a relationship with Jesus by placing our faith and trust in Him and Him alone for our salvation. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

The good news doesn’t end there. Not only can we have eternal life through Jesus, but we also now can live without being condemned because of sin. Jesus paid the price for our sins, and He lives within those who have placed their trust in Him. In Christ, not only have we secured our future in eternity with God, but we have the Holy Spirit living in us to help us today to live for Christ. For more information on how to know God, check our website at www.gbcmilescity.com.

SERMON NOTES

A NATION UNDER GOD

- President George Washington said, “It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible.”
- In 1782, The U.S. Congress voted in favor of not only placing Bibles in school but using them in school to teach.
- Patrick Henry, the first governor of Virginia, and a member of the Continental Congress stated, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”
- Joseph Story, appointed to the US Supreme Court in 1811 by President James Madison and one of the first Supreme Court Justices, wrote the very first commentaries on the Constitution. He stated, “There never has been a period of history in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundation.”
- He also stated, “There is not a truth to be gathered from history more certain, or more momentous than this: That civil liberty cannot be separated from religious liberty without danger, and ultimately without destruction to both. Where religious liberty exists, it will, first or last, bring in and establish political liberty.”
- Noah Webster, “The Father of American Education,” was the author of the first edition of his American Dictionary of the English Language. He stated, “Education is useless without the Bible...The Bible was America’s basic text book in all fields.”
- Chief Justice Earl Warren in 1954 said, “I believe that no one can read the history of our country without realizing that the Bible and the Spirit of the Savior have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses.”

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SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

- Jesus stood up and shouted, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life..."
- Do not let anyone claim tribute of American patriotism if they even attempt to remove religion from politics.
- "The 1st amendment has created a wall of separation between church and state, but that wall is a one directional wall, it keeps the government from running the church, but it makes sure that Christian principles will always stay in government." – President Thomas Jefferson in an address to Danbury Baptists.
- We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our constitution was made for a moral and religious people...it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other..." – John Adams
- "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, ^[a]to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace ^[b]be yours in the fullest measure. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." 1 Peter 1:1-3
- "16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you." John 15:16
- 1. Reverence for God
 - o Proverbs 15:16 – "Better is a little with the ^[a]fear of the LORD than great treasure and turmoil with it."
 - o Psalm 33:18 – "Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who ^[a]hope for His lovingkindness,"

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SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

- 2. Dependence upon God's Power
 - o 2 Kings 19:15-19 – "Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, who are ^[a]enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.¹⁶ Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and listen to the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.¹⁷ Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have devastated the nations and their lands¹⁸ and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.¹⁹ Now, O LORD our God, I pray, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O LORD, are God."
 - o Isaiah 17:6-7 – "Yet gleanings will be left in it like the ^[a]shaking of an olive tree, two or three olives on the topmost bough, four or five on the branches of a fruitful tree, declares the LORD, the God of Israel. ⁷In that day man will have regard for his Maker and his eyes will look to the Holy One of Israel.
- 3. Hope in His unfailing love
 - o Psalm 33:18-22 – "Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who ^[a]hope for His loving-kindness,¹⁹ To deliver their soul from death And to keep them alive in famine.²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. ²¹For our heart rejoices in Him, Because we trust in His holy name. ²²Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, According as we have ^[b]hoped in You.
 - o Psalm 43:5 – "Why are you ^[a]in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? ^[b]Hope in God, for I shall ^[c]again praise Him, The ^[d]help of my countenance and my God.
 - o Luke 4:18 – "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed,"