Defining the Gospel
Part 1

The *message* or "good news" of the person and work of Jesus Christ, God the Son, come to the earth to fulfill God’s eternal plan of salvation. The message carries within it the power to transform the sinner by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit, into a child of God and grant them eternal life. It furthermore includes the proclamation of all of God’s promises to mankind in Christ, as well as His threatenings to those who continue in their sin and rejection of God’s way of salvation provided “freely” through Jesus Christ.

Primarily, mankind has been separated from God by sin, is subject to His wrath, but that mankind *can be saved from God’s wrath by repentance from sins and faith* (trusting in and relying upon the person and work of Jesus Christ, receiving Him as both Savior and Lord) *in Jesus Christ*. Secondarily, that this gospel message is to be preached among the nations so that mankind can be saved adhering to it.


The Gospel and its elements are clearly spelled out in the New Testament both in the ministry of Jesus and the Apostles. The passage in Acts 17:24-31 shines like the noonday sun!

**Acts 17:24-31** - 24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands: 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for *in Him we live and move and exist*, as even some of your own poets have said;’ For we also are His offspring.’ 29 "Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. 30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. ” NASB

**God is Self-existent, Creator, Sustainer, Omnipotent, and Holy**

God is perfect and because of that fact is set apart from mankind. God is Holy and without sin, He is utterly pure and without any blemish. God is dependent on nothing, everything else is completely dependent on God for its existence. He is all-powerful, all-knowing and everywhere present. God exercises providence over the whole creation bringing to pass whatsoever He wishes. God possesses all dominion, authority and power, mankind is limited in authority and power. *Mankind owes his/her existence to God, even his/her next breath is given by the Providence of God.* God created the world for the purposes of manifesting His glory through providence, sin and redemption.
Psalms 135:5-6 - For I know that the LORD is great; And that our Lord is above all gods. 6 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does. In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

Revelation 4:11 - 11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

Romans 11:32 - 32 For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all. NASB

Man is under His wrath because of sin
Through the sin of Adam and Eve all mankind have become sinners. The gospel declares that the punishment for sin is death (eternal separation from God). It speaks the message that God being Holy cannot tolerate sin, and is angry because of sin and will come to destroy the world and the sinners within it. God is at war with those who sin and reject His Son Jesus Christ. Those who reject Jesus Christ will be eternally separated from God, and cast in to the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Romans 5:12 - 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death spread to all men, because all sinned

Romans 6:23 - 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NASB

Isaiah 13:9-11 - 9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises, And the moon will not shed its light. 11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud, And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless. NASB

2 Thessalonians 1:7-11 - 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, 9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed. NASB

Revelation 21:8 - 8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." NASB

God requires perfect righteousness
Since God is Holy, those who dwell with Him must also be Holy. He cannot tolerate the presence of sin as it violates His very nature. Therefore, for anyone to come into His presence, they must come completely righteous, without blame or charge of any kind. You cannot stand in God’s Kingdom with one single sin to your charge. One sin is a violation of God’s nature and worthy of eternal separation from Him.

Romans 3:23 - 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, NASB

Psalms 130:3 - 3 If Thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? NASB

Matthew 5:20 - 20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. NASB

Hebrews 12:14 - 14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. NASB

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you; but you were
washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God. NASB