

- **Cultural** - The Gospel is a message that has power to transform the moral fiber of a culture. It cuts to the heart of how people relate to one another with conviction.
- **Transformational** – The Gospel transforms us into new creations in Christ as it is God’s very power to save and transform.
- **Wonderful** – The Gospel is a glorious display of the character and nature of the wonderful God.

All of these things show us clearly that **the Gospel is complex and multifaceted message** about God and His eternal purpose accomplished through Jesus Christ, which encompasses the entire record of human history and the fulfillment of the ages.

### Jesus is the Gospel

But in its most basic element it is a message about Christ. Jesus Himself is the beginning and the end of the Gospel. Paul when writing to the Corinthians tells us.....

**1 Corinthians 1:20-24** - 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know God*, **God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.** 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but **we preach Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** NASB

**1 Corinthians 1:30-2:2** - 30 But by His doing you are in **Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.** 31 that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." 2:1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 **For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.** NASB

Here Paul says Jesus is the power of God and He is the wisdom of God. What Paul is communicating is that we cannot experience the power or wisdom of God apart from the person of Christ because He is the central theme of God’s wisdom and power. We see the power and the wisdom of God through the Gospel, as it explains to us God’s amazing love expressed through Jesus and His passion on the Cross. **“We preach Christ crucified”** says Paul. His message is one about how the death of a certain man can redeem the entire creation from death and decay! This he says is a **“foolish”** message to the Greeks and a **“stumbling block”** to the Jews, but to those whom God has called, **“Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”** He goes on to tell us that Jesus has become for us....wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption. Not that Jesus gives us these things, but that He, His person, is those things for us. Now dear friends, here is true freedom....Jesus IS my wisdom....Jesus IS my rightstanding with God....Jesus IS my holiness before God....and Jesus IS my redemption, my personal payment for my personal horrendous sins! Christ IS these things for me, because I am unable to be these things on my own! Oh what a Savior! Jesus’ very name means “The Lord saves!” Jesus is the Gospel! This reminds me of a word from the man of God John Newton..... *“My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior.”*

### The gospel never changes

What we preach is a very old, old story. The message about Christ and His death, burial and resurrection is fixed historical fact. Further, God sent Him to accomplish redemption for us and it was therefore planned and accomplished by God Himself. It is therefore the fulfillment of the exact requirements of God to meet the demands of His own justice, and Christ performed that perfectly. It ever remains therefore, the unchanging power of God for all who receive it with authentic, persevering faith.

**Romans 1:16-17** - 16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,** to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous *man* shall live by faith." NASB

# Romans 3:19-28

## An Exposition – The Righteousness of God in the Gospel

### Brief Outline Romans Chapters 1-3

I.	Introduction	1:1-17
II.	Condemnation: The Need for God's Righteousness	1:18—3:20
	A. Guilt of the Gentile	1:18-32
	B. Guilt of the Jew	2:1—3:8
	C. Conclusion: All Are Guilty before God	3:9-20
III.	Justification: God's Righteousness	3:21—5:21
	A. Description of Righteousness	3:21-31
	B. Illustration of Righteousness	4
	C. Benefits of Righteousness	5:1-11
	D. Contrast of Righteousness and Condemnation	5:12-21

The book of Romans is comprehensive and technical discourse on Salvation by grace through faith in Christ, and on the Gospel message. In the above outline we get a picture of the foundation Paul has been building in order to deliver the Gospel message to us. In chapter one he tells us that *“the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation”* (v-16) and he then tells us that it reveals the *“righteousness of God”* (v-17). He begins to establish the case of why God’s righteousness is important and necessary explaining that both Gentile and Jew are under the condemnation of God and in desperate need to be justified. In chapter 3:19-28, he explains this *“righteousness of God”* which is revealed in the Gospel in very certain terms. The following is an exposition of this text.

**Romans 3:19-20** - 19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. NASB

A. 19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God; -

**Paul, having made his case that both the Gentile (1:18-32) and the Jew (2:1-3:8) are guilty before God, this is his final concluding remark stating that they are all liable and “accountable to God.” In establishing the extent of this accountability, he states that “every mouth may be closed and the whole world may become accountable.” By this he surely means that they have no defense or excuse to speak of the guilt of their sin, but that both their conscience (2:12-16) and God’s Law (here) testify against them.**

B. 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. -

**In regard to being “justified” in God’s sight, Paul again established the guilt of the entire world with the reference “no flesh,” that is, no human being. These he says, cannot be “justified” by obedience to the Law, rather that their failure to keep it establishes what sin**