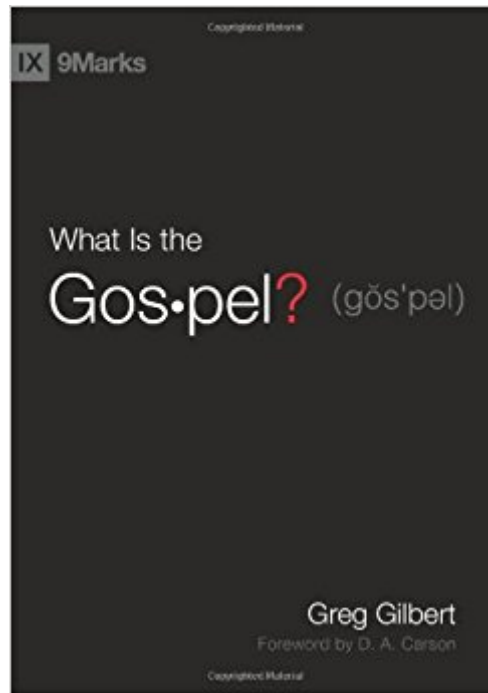




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What Is The Gospel? (9Marks)



Synopsis

What is the gospel? It seems like a simple question, yet it has been known to incite some heated responses, even in the church. How are we to formulate a clear, biblical understanding of the gospel? Tradition, reason, and experience all leave us ultimately disappointed. If we want answers, we must turn to the Word of God. Greg Gilbert does so in *What Is the Gospel?* Beginning with Paul's systematic presentation of the gospel in Romans and moving through the sermons in Acts, Gilbert argues that the central structure of the gospel consists of four main subjects: God, man, Christ, and a response. The book carefully examines each and then explores the effects the gospel can have in individuals, churches, and the world. Both Christian and non-Christian readers will gain a clearer understanding of the gospel in this valuable resource.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Greg Gilbert is one of the brightest and most faithful young men called to serve the church today. Here he offers us a penetrating, faithful, and fully biblical understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no greater need than to know the true gospel, to recognize the counterfeits, and to set loose a generation of gospel-centered Christians. This very important book arrives at just the right moment." — R. Albert Mohler Jr., President and Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary "Two realities make this a critically important book: the centrality of the gospel in all generations and the confusion about the gospel in our own generation. *What Is the Gospel?* provides a biblically faithful explanation of the gospel and

equips Christians to discern deviations from that glorious message. How I wish I could place this book in the hands of every pastor and church member."

•C. J. Mahaney, Senior Pastor, Sovereign Grace Church, Louisville, Kentucky

"Greg Gilbert contends that the current evangelical understanding of the gospel is lost in a fog of confusion. He burns away that fog by shining fresh light on an old subject. Gilbert writes in a clear, concise, and colloquial style that will especially appeal to young adults. *What Is the Gospel?* will sharpen your thinking about the gospel, etching it more deeply on your heart so you can share the good news of Jesus Christ with boldness. It will leave you pondering the extent to which the gospel has impacted your own life. It will cause you to cry out with thankfulness to God for what Christ has accomplished."

•James MacDonald, Pastor, Harvest Bible Chapel, Rolling Meadows, Illinois; author, *Vertical Church*

"A wonderful telling of the old, old story in fresh words and with sound warnings against subtle misrepresentations. As the old gospel song attests, and as is true of Greg Gilbert's fine book, those who know the old, old story best will find themselves hungering and thirsting to hear this story like the rest."

•Bryan Chapell, President Emeritus, Covenant Theological Seminary; Senior Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria, Illinois

"Greg Gilbert is someone I have had the honor and privilege of teaching and who is now teaching me. This little book on the gospel is one of the clearest and most important books I've read in recent years."

•Mark Dever, pastor, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, DC; president, 9Marks

"What is the gospel? This short but powerful book answers that question with a clear and concise presentation. It is a superb treatment of the good news. Read it and then pass it on."

•Daniel L. Akin, President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

"Greg Gilbert, with a sharp mind and a pastor's heart, has written a book that will be helpful for seekers, new Christians, and anyone who wants to understand the gospel with greater clarity. I've been waiting for a book like this! As a sure-footed guide to a surprisingly controversial subject, it clears up misconceptions about the gospel, the kingdom, and the meaning of the cross."

•Kevin DeYoung, Senior Pastor, Christ Covenant Church, Matthews, North Carolina

"*What Is the Gospel?* demonstrates in a sensitive and intriguing way that the gospel is indescribably profound as well as eminently describable clear enough for anyone to comprehend."

•Paige Patterson, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

"Greg Gilbert cuts through the confusion by searching Scripture to answer the most important question anyone can ask. Even if you think you know the good news of what God has done in Christ, Gilbert will sharpen your focus on this glorious gospel."

•Collin Hansen, Editorial Director, The Gospel Coalition; author, *Blind Spots*

"This book will help you better

understand, treasure, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. And if you think you know enough about the gospel already, you might need it more than you think."

—Joshua Harris, Former Senior Pastor, Covenant Life Church, Gaithersburg, Maryland; author, *Dug Down Deep*

"Amidst a contemporary Christian culture characterized by rampant confusion regarding the central tenets of our faith, Greg Gilbert has given us a portrait of the gospel that is clear for those who have believed and compelling for those who have yet to believe. Word-saturated, cross-centered, and God-exalting, *What Is the Gospel?* will capture your mind's attention and ignite your heart's affection for the God who saves us by his grace through his gospel for his glory."

—David Platt, President, International Mission Board; author, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*

"Greg Gilbert has called the church back to the source of her revelation. In a simple and straightforward manner, he has laid bare what the Bible has shown the gospel to mean."

—Archbishop Peter J. Akinola, Primate of the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion

"Clarity on the gospel brings both confidence in the gospel and conviction concerning core gospel truths. This excellent book is wonderfully clear and biblically faithful, and will repay reading with renewed gospel focus."

—William Taylor, Rector, St. Helen's Bishopsgate, London; author, *Understanding the Times and Partnership*

"When I think of the centerpiece of my Bible, my heart immediately embraces the gospel. I know many people who love the gospel, but I'm always open to loving it more and understanding it better. Greg Gilbert has written this book to help us to know and love the gospel more."

—Johnny Hunt, Former President, The Southern Baptist Convention; Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church Woodstock, Woodstock, Georgia

"What makes this book profound is its simplicity. Perhaps the greatest danger in Christianity is making assumptions about what the gospel is without hearing the Bible's clear and definitive voice. It is not an overstatement to say this may be the most important book you'll read about the Christian faith."

—Rick Holland, Senior Pastor, Mission Road Bible Church, Prairie Village, Kansas

"'Gospel-centeredness' has become the new, vogue term for pastors and churches. Greg Gilbert does a masterful job in this book explaining what that gospel actually is. He shows us that many well-meaning churches have distorted the gospel through false teaching, and others have abandoned the gospel because of embarrassment or simply neglect. This is a profound analysis of the gospel, expressed in a poignant, relevant way. I am very grateful for Greg's prophetic call to return to the straightforward message of the cross."

—J. D. Greear, pastor, The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina; author, *Gaining by Losing: Why the Future Belongs to Churches that Send*

Greg Gilbert (MDiv, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is senior pastor at Third Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the author of *What Is the Gospel?*, *James: A 12-Week Study*, and *Who Is Jesus?*, and is the co-author (with Kevin DeYoung) of *What Is the Mission of the Church?*. D. A. Carson (PhD, Cambridge University) is research professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, where he has taught since 1978. He is a cofounder of the Gospel Coalition and has written or edited nearly 120 books. He and his wife, Joy, have two children and live in the north suburbs of Chicago.

Excellent resource! Book was great, these are super handy as reminders of the major points you would want to share with someone who doesn't know the Gospel. Great for encouraging newer believers to get a better grasp of the magnitude of God's plan for redemption for His glory.

What a great little book. Greg Gilbert has done the church a great service by putting this short book together. Today when there is so much controversy over the Gospel this book sets the record straight. You might ask, what is the controversy? Well, basically there are many groups, pastors, denominations, churches, etc. who are watering down the Gospel and trying to soft pedal it. Gilbert doesn't do that. Instead he gives a very straight forward presentation of the Gospel, lots of scriptural references and many definitions that you will find helpful in your understanding of the work that God has done in giving us a way to be reconciled with Him. There are many excellent reviews out here, read through several of them. You will see that everyone is impressed with how Greg put this work together. As part of the 9Marks series this is maybe one of the best in the series. After reading this you won't be at a loss to explain "what the Gospel is." You also won't be able to sleep at night if you have been watering down the message and trying to soft pedal it. You will be forced to reconcile your thoughts with scripture and I guarantee that the Holy Spirit will move your heart to be prepared to give a good answer to anyone who asks you, what is the Gospel. My suggestion? After reading this book order a case of the book and give it out to all your friends and then get them together to have a discussion group to make sure that everyone has understood What the Gospel is! Enjoy!

This is a good concise discussion answering the question posed by the title. The author explains why the question is relevant and important, as those who describe themselves as evangelical have lost agreement on what the evangel (= Good News = Gospel) is. The gospel releases the Christian from bondage, and Liberty is good. But if we don't share definitions communication breaks down. Gilbert gives a concise, biblical, explanation of the gospel as it has been understood since the

Reformation (and Radical Reformation) until recent years - the definition that has historically the underlying distinctive to evangelism and has defined evangelicals. It's brevity may be a weakness, but it is certainly a great strength. Together with its readability, it makes the volume very readable. There are a few places where I wish he had developed some ideas a little more, but if he tried to add "a little more" for everyone like me, it would be a huge tome and not very readable. He makes the key ideas clear. That is what he set out to do and what I was looking for. I highly recommend this book to new Christians, mature Christians, teachers, and to those seeking to understand Christianity. I purchased several copies - to have some to give away.

My husband LOVED this! He enjoyed it so much that he carried it around in his Bible (it's a thin book) since he got it. He enjoyed reading it and it was so thought provoking and made him desire to look at things in a different light. He enjoyed it so much that after speaking with a friend for a period of time, he reluctantly decided to share it. His friend read it and he enjoyed it so much that he asked to pass it on to his father-in-law. I personally have not had the opportunity to read it, but I've heard much about it from my husband. Seeing him discuss it with his friend was a real treat as you could see how it stirred their passion for the Lord, so based on what I've seen and heard I'd say this book is a real winner and was certainly a treasure for my husband and family friend.

What is the Gospel? by Greg Gilbert is a short book of only 120 some odd pages, that I read in one sitting. But while its physical length may be short, it is in no way short on substance. This is one of those books that accomplishes in a very few pages, what countless others with two or three times as many pages have failed to do, and that is to draw attention to the white-hot core of the essentials of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And Gilbert does so in very understandable terms, in part by drawing comparisons between the TRUE Gospel and some of the mutations that have developed over the last couple of thousand years, with most of those springing up in the last couple of dozen. This is an excellent book for both the Christian and the unsaved alike. It will be useful for the "mature" Christian and the person who has just recently experienced the life changing experience of Godly regeneration. I know something of Gilbert's background in terms of seminary education and the church where he currently serves. To his credit, he focuses on the real essentials of the Gospel and does not even make a slight pass by any of the doctrinal or practical distinctives that I know he embraces, but which would cause some to regard this book as flowing from a particular theological stream of modern Christianity or a particular denomination within the church, and thus be suspect of partisanship or bias. But, again to Gilbert's credit, you would not expect to find those sorts of

doctrinal or practical influences in a book that serves to answer the question: "What is the Gospel?" Read this book!

Arrived early - thank you. This is a curious and interesting little book. Lots of information and explanations are easy to understand and find without getting bogged down. I'm looking forward to reading and learning about the gos-pel from this little book.

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