

The Gospel in the 21st Century

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Intro:

- Today we're going to talk about "Good News"
- We're living in a world bad news is everywhere
- Just switch on the TV for 5 mins, and we're already depressed
- Today I'd like to share the Greatest News ever told, excited?

Let's walk back in Time (Genesis)

- God was in the picture, He creates everything, and He called it Good
- Then He creates man in His own image to have this intimate relationship
- The next thing man disobeyed God
- This creates a barrier between God & man called 'Sin'
- Man has lost his relationship with God
- But what exactly is 'Sin'? We keep hearing this word in Christian circles

The Theatre of your Life

- Imagine yourself seated in a movie theatre seated like this one. The movie your about to see is the story of your life, every second, every thought, literally everything. Now I'm not sure about you, but I'm already uncomfortable.
- To top this, all the people from your life in the movie are called in to sit with you in this theatre. By now, I would've run away!
- You see, that is a picture of what Sin is and what it can do. Imagine everyone you know looking at your life.
- How embarrassing it would be! Gives you a picture of how imperfect we all are. God judges us just like that, everything we have thought, said and done. We commit sins of commission- things we have done and sins of omission- not doing something when we are supposed to do it.
- Further, why do we see so much hate, murder, lies, wars, deception and the list goes on and on...
- You get the idea. It's because of this root cause in us- Sin. All of us have got it.
- Mankind has tried its best over the centuries to alleviate this root cause.
- We have got countless NGOs, hospitals, people trying everything they can do to help.
- It is like putting a band-aid over a bleeding injury.
- Yet, it's not enough. The root cause still remains. We are helpless within ourselves.

The Heart of the Human problem is the problem of the Human Heart
Our Greatest Need...

As humans, we all have needs. But what is our greatest need? If our greatest need was information, God would've sent us an educator. If our greatest need was money, God would've sent us an economist. If our greatest need was pleasure, God would've sent us an entertainer. But, our greatest need is and will always be FORGIVENESS... Forgiveness from our Sin. That's why God sent us a SAVIOR on Christmas Day! His name- JESUS!

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)*

God sent us a child to save us from the root cause we are all in. This child would be the answer from Heaven for us to get back to God. Upon him was the mandate to take the suffering of mankind and restore us back to God.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
— John 3:16-17 (NIV)*

Here comes the Good News

- Ever since the beginning, God loved us.
- In fact, He created us in His image (see Genesis 1:26) which is why we are the object of His obsession.
- While we were left in this mess, God had a plan. He loved us so much He couldn't leave us with Sin.
- God cares for us, in fact, I'm going to make a statement. "How much you truly value someone is by how much you're willing to sacrifice"
- God so loved us that he gave his very best; JESUS.
- That's how much he values us but because of our sin, we have been separated from God.
- God would have been perfectly Justified to leave us rotting in our sin. And yet Christ came and endured the punishment we deserved on the Cross.

- The Cross was so painful that the word “excruciating” means out of the Cross. The pain he endured was so great, but greater is his Love for us.
- It’s a love that knows no boundaries and limitations. He loved us while we were yet enemies of him.
- We are forever his obsession, his fixation. Nothing can ever disqualify us from his Love for it is unconditional.

God wants to have a relationship with us, now it’s possible through His son Jesus. Now that you have heard this Good News, it’s time to respond.

All we have to do... Believe & Receive!

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved - Romans 10:9

Pray, Minister