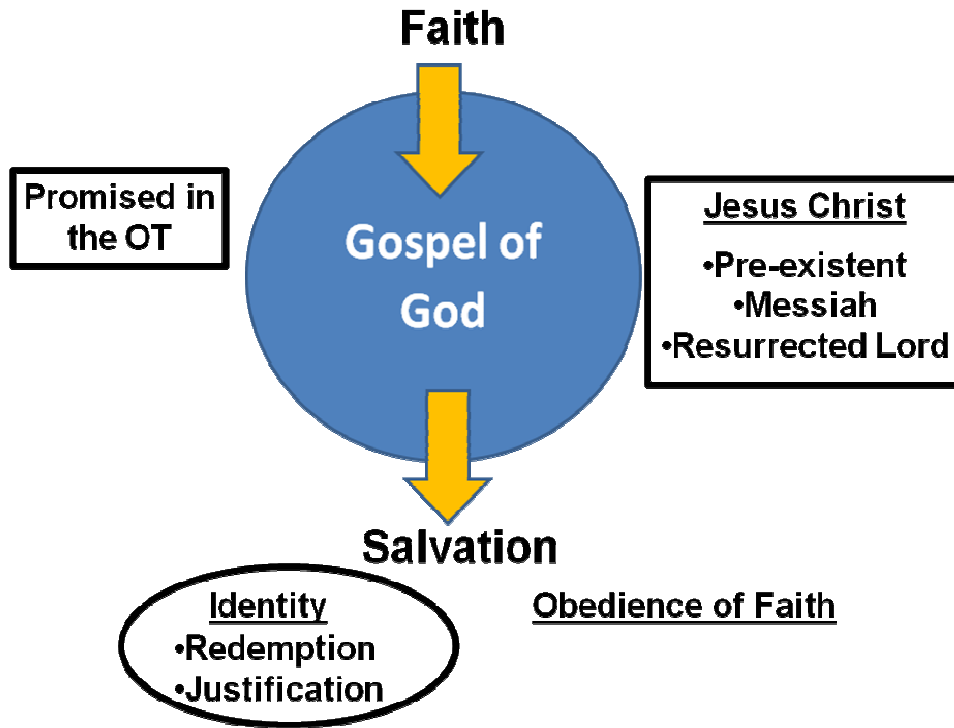


Belonging to Jesus: “Remember the Beginning”
Romans 3:21-4:25

I would like to spend the next few months focusing on “belonging to Jesus.” There is a sense of security in these words. They provide a clear description of my identity. They also help to focus my eyes on obedience and on Christ’s mission. Belonging to Jesus begins by learning to depend on Him and Him alone. Romans 3:21-4:25 takes me back to the beginning and helps me to figure out what God has done in my life and how I’m to live in light of that.



Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

Monday-Tuesday

- Read Romans 3:9-20. What are the conclusions that Paul has regarding all of humanity?
- Discuss in a group what other alternatives we hear from our culture regarding humanity? What does the world say that is different than what the Bible says? How do we as Christians tend to get influenced by these alternatives?
- Read Romans 3:23. What does this verse teach? Who is included in “all”? What does “sinned” mean? What does it mean to “fall short of the glory of God”? See Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:5-6; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10; and Romans 1:21-23.
- Discuss in a group how you would talk to an individual who doesn’t yet know Jesus about the topic of “all have sinned.” How would you respond to the typical answers of our culture? Begin praying today for 1-2 individuals who don’t yet know Jesus that they would begin a conversation with you about spiritual matters.

Wednesday-Thursday

- Read Romans 3:21-31. How would you define “justification” and “redemption”? What are the word pictures behind these terms? What actually takes place when you become a Christian?
- How would our culture disagree with these two concepts? How would these views influence you?
- Knowing these two concepts, what would you change in your worship of God? How does this affect your relationship with other believers? How would this affect how you go about reaching the world? In light of these thoughts, what would you do different today?

Friday-Saturday

- Read Romans 3:21-4:25. How would you define “faith”? The issue is the “object” of your faith—in whom or in what do you place your faith? What does the passage say?
- How does Abraham illustrate this? Read Genesis 15 to help understand the background.
- How would our culture define “faith” and how does this influence us?
- How do you think you can strengthen your faith? Discuss with someone several ways to do that and set up a plan for today. Be sure to celebrate what God is doing in your life.