



GOSPEL EMPHASES FOR RHC

SESSION 1
GOOD NEWS,
NOT IMPLICATIONS
PART 1 THE GOSPEL IS CENTRAL

Handbook



GOSPEL EMPHASES FOR RHC

For the next 7 weeks, our church will be embarking on a series called “Gospel Emphases for RHC” – diving into 4 aspects of the gospel that we hope for our church to grow in understanding so that we can know and love Jesus more deeply.

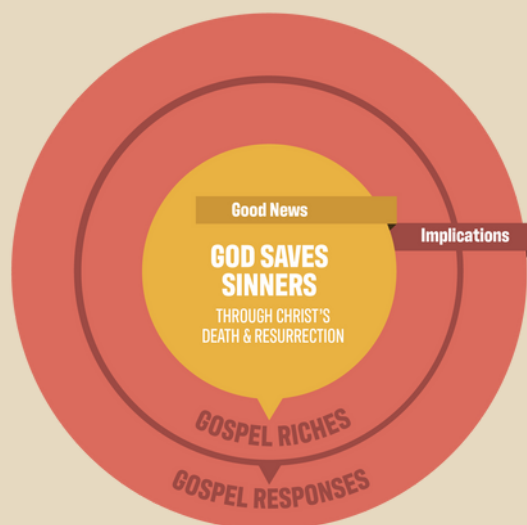
These 4 aspects that we are emphasising are not an attempt to define the gospel comprehensively or write a “creed” for RHC. Rather, it is something that is specifically contextualised for RHC, in response to the areas that we feel like we may be weaker in understanding the Good News of Jesus for us in our church. We hope that these emphases and tools give us a common language as we use them throughout the life of our church, to strengthen our faith individually and collectively at RHC.

These 4 emphases are:

- The gospel is **Good News Not Implications**
- The gospel is about a **Person, Not a Philosophy**
- Christ’s Work is **Rich & Relevant**
- The gospel **Changes Us at a Heart Level**

In our CG study over the next few weeks, we’ll be focusing largely on the first two emphases.

Today and for the next 2 weeks, we’ll be diving deep into the first one: the gospel is good news, not implications.



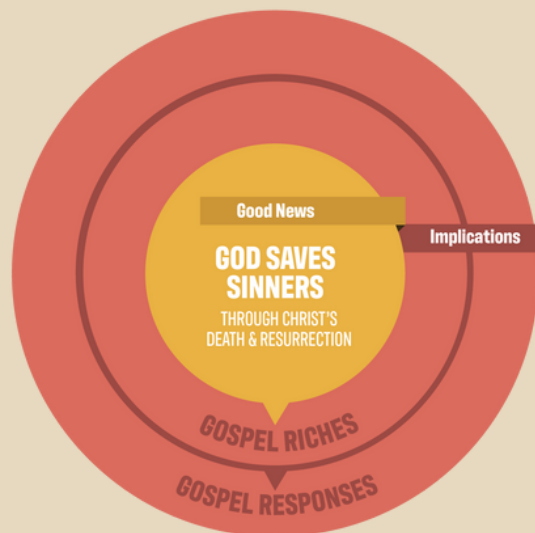


STUDY & DISCUSSION

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

1 Cor 15:14

1. What is the matter of 'first importance' that Paul refers to in v3?
2. Based on this passage, what are some characteristics of the gospel?



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The good news of the gospel is that 'God saves sinners through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.' God sends His son Jesus to take on the punishment of our sin, and through his death and resurrection we receive forgiveness and eternal life.

WHAT ARE GOSPEL RICHES?

'Gospel riches' are the saving benefits or spiritual blessings that we enjoy because we are united with Christ. These salvation blessings, or 'gospel riches', that Christ secured through his death and resurrection include things like 'forgiveness,' 'mercy,' our 'adoption', 'sanctification', 'assurance' and so on. Gospel blessings, therefore, are results of the gospel.

Here are some examples of gospel riches:

Examples of Gospel Blessing/Riches	How It Applies to Us
Union with Christ <i>I am in Christ</i>	When we are united to Jesus, whatever is true of Him becomes true of us. Our sins are paid for by His death, our eternal life is inaugurated in His resurrection.
Justification <i>I am forgiven</i>	The righteousness of Christ is given to us while our sins, past, present, and future are never counted against us, because Jesus has died for them. Therefore, we are able to stand before God as His righteous people.
Sanctification <i>I am being made new</i>	We are free from the bondage of sin and death because Jesus' death has free us from the curse of sin. We are progressively being made holy because we are being made increasingly like Jesus, since we have been resurrected with Him.
Adoption <i>I am God's child</i>	We become God's children, and we can run to and approach God as a loving Father.
Assurance <i>I am forever loved</i>	Because Jesus' death and resurrection is as certain as the universe itself, we can have the assurance and confidence that no sin and suffering shall keep us away from God's love.

WHAT ARE GOSPEL RESPONSES?

'Gospel responses' are what we do as believers, in response to being saved by the Gospel. Gospel responses are things like 'loving others,' 'tithing,' 'reading the Word,' 'going to church.'"

THE GOSPEL IS CENTRAL

While these three categories are distinct from one another, they are tightly connected to one another: in scripture, the writers weave connected webs between them. The Gospel is rarely spoken without reference to its riches, and our responses as believers are very much shaped by the gospel and the riches we've received.

Ultimately, the death and resurrection of Jesus is central to Christianity: it is the foundation and bedrock of our faith. Everything else is rooted in the gospel and flows out of the gospel.

By this **we know love (riches)**, that **he laid down his life for us (gospel)**, and we ought to **lay down our lives for the brothers. (response)**

1 John 3:16

Identify the gospel, gospel riches and gospel responses in the following passages:

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations.

Rom 1:1-5

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved — 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Eph 2:1-10



REFLECTION & PRAYER

20 MINS

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Q1. The gospel is the foundation for the blessings we receive or the responses that God calls us to do. What is our day to day attitude toward the gospel?

Do we:

- Think we have graduated from it or moved on from it?
- See it as disconnected from our everyday reality?
- Disconnected from what we need to do for Jesus?

Q2. The good news of the gospel is that while God saved sinners through Christ's death and resurrection.

- Take some time to just meditate on this fact. What does this suggest about God's character and heart for sinners?
- This is an unchanging, objective historical fact. How does this encourage you today?

PRAYER IN PAIRS

Consider John 3:16.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Split into pairs, share one takeaway from today's session and use John 3:16 to pray for one another.