

*being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; whom God set forth to be an at-oning sacrifice, through faith in his blood, **for a demonstration of his righteousness through the passing over of prior sins, in God's forbearance; to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time; that he might himself be just, and the justifier of him who has faith in Jesus.*** (Romans 3:24-26)

Jesus overcame the world by **revealing** clearly the **righteousness of God** – what the world denies. **This is the gospel core** – that **God is righteous**, that He alone is **good**, that **no darkness** is in Him. This is why the Son of God was **first God's Christ** long before humans ever existed. The core of the **war is contention over God's goodness**, trustworthiness, consistency and **integrity**. So the **gospel targets the very center** of the contention over which the war started, **highlighting the truth** in sharp contrast to, and exposing as fraudulent, all the lies that have disrupted the **free flow of God's love**.

This was the **focal point of Jesus' life** among us as a **human reflector of God's glory**. Previously He worked tirelessly as **God's Christ** among the angelic beings, and now He adds the role of **being our Christ** to rescue, salvage and **restore God's image** in willing human beings – **all for God's glory**.

*When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, "O Lord, you are God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said, 'Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take council together, **against the Lord, and against his Christ.**'* (Acts 4:24-26)

*Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take counsel together, **against Yahweh, and against his anointed**, saying, "Let's break their bonds apart, and cast their cords from us."* (Psalms 2:1-3)

*Behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before **he had seen the Lord's Christ.*** (Luke 2:25-26)

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." Dividing his garments among them, they cast lots.

*The people stood watching. The rulers with them also scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, **if this is the Christ of God, his chosen one!**"* (Luke 23:34-35)

*The seventh angel sounded, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become **the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ.** He will reign forever and ever!"* (Revelation 11:15)

*I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now is come the salvation, the power, and **the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ;** for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. (Revelation 12:10)*

How does the gospel **relate to God**?

The gospel at its core is the truth, the **Good News** unmasked by His Christ **about God** the Father. This strikes at the very heart of all accusations, slander and character assassination against God.

*For what if some were without faith? Will their lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? May it never be! Yes, let God be found true, but every man a liar. As it is written, "**That you might be justified in your words, and might prevail when you come into judgment.**" (Romans 3:3-4)*

How does the gospel relate to and **affect humans?**

*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you **no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles** also walk, in the **futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their hearts; who having become callous gave themselves up to lust, to work all uncleanness with greediness.** But you did not learn Christ that way; if indeed you heard him, and were taught in him, even **as truth is in Jesus**: that you put away, as concerning your former way of life, the old man, that **grows corrupt after the lusts of deceit; and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.** (Ephesians 4:17-24)*

***I will praise you, Lord my God, with my whole heart. I will glorify your name forevermore.** (Psalms 86:12)*

*"**Father, glorify your name!**" Then there came a voice out of the sky, saying, "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." (John 12:28)*

*Who wouldn't fear you, Lord, and **glorify your name?** For **you only are holy.** For all the nations will come and worship before you. For **your righteous acts have been revealed.**" (Revelation 15:4)*

*"I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. But **the time is coming** when I will no more speak to you in figures of speech, but will **tell you plainly about the Father.** In that day you will ask in my name; and **I don't say** to you, that **I will pray to the Father for you, for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me, and have believed that I came forth from God.***

I came out from the Father, and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world, and go to the Father."

His disciples said to him, "Behold, now you speak plainly, and speak no figures of speech. Now we know that you know all things, and don't need for anyone to question you. By this we believe that you came forth from God."

*Jesus answered them, "**Do you now believe? Behold, the time is coming, yes, and has now come, that you will be scattered, everyone to his own place, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have oppression; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.**" (John 16:25-33)*

*My God, turn your ear, and hear; open your eyes, and see our desolations, and the city which is called by your name: for **we do not present our petitions before you for our righteousness, but for your great mercies' sake.** Lord, hear; Lord, forgive; Lord, listen and do; **don't defer, for your own sake, my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.** (Daniel 9:18-19)*