

NOTES FROM TIM GAMSTON'S SERMON- 3rd March 2024 pm

TITLE: "What is the great discovery of the Gospel"

TEXT: Romans 5 v 1-10 Scripture references from the ESV

Romans 5:1-10 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith^[b] into this grace in which we stand, and we^[c] rejoice^[d] in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

To answer the question 'What is the great discovery of the Gospel', we need to really know what the gospel is.

It is the message of God's grace to undeserving sinners.

Through the perfect life, atoning death and bodily resurrection of Jesus, God rescues all his people from his wrath and brings them into peace with him. In so doing, he promises the full restoration of creation forever. He does it all to the praise of the glory of his grace.

God, who is holy, puts sinners (us) right with himself

The Puritan, John Owen, offers this reflection on the gospel:

The chief way by which the saints have communion with the Father is love – free, undeserved, eternal love. This love, the Father pours on the saints. Saints are to see God as full of love to them. They are to receive him as the One who loves them.... This is the great truth of the gospel.

As far as Owen is concerned:

The great discovery of the gospel is that God the Father loves us, his people. It is easy to forget this, if we are not careful. We can so emphasise the love of Jesus, God the Son, for us that we forget that the love lavished upon us is the love of our heavenly Father.

Paul speaks about the peace we have with God (v1). Jesus has atoned for our sins, satisfying the just wrath of God that stood against us and securing peace with God for us. He refers to us as enemies of God who are now reconciled to him (v10). This required the death of God's Son (v6).

Christ's death was the means by which God's wrath was satisfied.

The Father was then free to declare righteous all who would believe in Jesus.

It is the most exciting news we can hear and it cuts across all the world's other religion. Those all work on the principle that we must make up for our own sin, covering it somehow with our own righteousness. The gospel message, however, is that God gives us his own righteousness to cover our sin. That righteousness is received through faith.

- What moved the Father to do this?

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.(v8)

- The Father gave up his Son to death on the cross for our justification as an act of love for us.

Jesus expressed it like this: **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.** (John 3:16).

That is why John Owen described the love of God the Father for us as the great discovery of the gospel.

It is love that connects us to God our heavenly Father

First and foremost, it is his love for us. If it were not for his love for us, we would not have a relationship with him and he would not continue to fellowship with us.

God's love for us is the foundation.

However, our love for him also connects us. His love for us has won our hearts, and his love is poured into us so that we love him and love those that he loves.

Out of this two-way love, we fellowship with him.

It is a fellowship where he cares for us and we obey him

We have discovered this love, not in an intellectual way, but experientially through the gospel of Christ.

Coming to the Lord's Table is so important.

The Lord's Table speaks to us of the gospel and demonstrates God's love.

**It is the place where we come to experience this love of the Father and fellowship with
God in love.**