

# The Glory of God on Display

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

John 17:1-5

There are dangers in relation to the Gospel. The modern tendency is to focus strictly on the benefits of the gospel to an individual. The gospel is often presented with a “what’s in it for you” mindset and focus. While there are certainly benefits for the individual, such a limited focus undermines the majestic nature and the glory of something that is so much more beautiful than a self-centered perspective.

If we look at the gospel solely on what it has to say ‘to me’ or ‘how the gospel can help me,’ We will miss what the gospel has to say about us, and we also fail to see the greatness, scope, and majesty of the gospel.

We hear little to no biblical exposition about the end-to-end plan of salvation. Yet, the Bible speaks extensively on the topic. So, let’s dive in and take a look!

## I. The Origin of the Gospel (John 17:2)

- A. Where does the Gospel start? It began with God. (**John 17:2**, “*Since you [the Father] have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you [the Father] have given him.*”
- B. Theologians have referred to the “Eternal Covenant” that was made between the members of the Godhead (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit)
  1. **Hebrews 13:20-21**, *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant*
  2. **Zechariah 9:11**, *As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.*
- C. Salvation is the perfectly planned resolution to man’s sin problem, designed and implemented by God.
  1. Its origin is in eternity past before the creation of all things
    - a) **Ephesians 1:4**, *Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*
    - b) **1 Peter 1:20**, *He [the Son of God, Jesus Christ] was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you*
    - c) **Revelation 13:8**, *And all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*
    - d) **John 17:24**, *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*
    - e) **2 Timothy 1:9**, *Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,*
    - f) **Matthew 25:34**, *Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*
  2. The gospel concludes that man is helpless in the matter of his salvation (**Ephesians 2:1-3**)
  3. The gospel is not a scheme to enable men to save themselves or develop themselves into heaven.
- D. To Whom is the Gospel directed?
  - a) It is directed to those whom the Father has given to the Son (**John 17:2**)
  - b) **John 17:6**, *“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.*
  - c) **John 17:9**, *I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.*
  - d) **John 17:24**, *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*
  - e) **John 6:37**, *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*
  - f) **John 6:39**, *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*
  - g) **John 10:29**, *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.*

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- h) **John 18:9**, *This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.”*

## II. The Executor of the Gospel

**John 17:3**, *And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

- A. **John 3:34**, *For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.*
- B. **John 5:36b**, *the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.*
- C. **John 5:37**, *And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me.*
- D. **John 12:49–50**, *For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. **50** And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”*
- E. **John 6:29, 57; 7:29; 10:36; 11:42;**

## III. The Mission of the Gospel

- A. **John 17:4**, *I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*
- B. **John 5:36**, *But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.*

### 1. Miracles

- a) Turning Water to Wine (**John 2:1-11**)
- b) Healing the nobleman’s son (**John 4:46-54**)
- c) Feeding the 5,000 (**Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-15**)
- d) Calming the Storm (**Mark 4:35-41**)
- e) Raising the Dead (**Luke 7:11-18; Mark 5:21-43**)

### 2. Teaching

- a) **Mark 1:14–15**, *Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, **15** and saying, “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.*”*

### 3. Prophecy

- a) **John 17:3**, *And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*
- b) **John 19:30**, *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “*It is finished,*” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*
- c) **John 14:16–17**, *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*
  - (1) **Acts 2:14–17**, *But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. **15** For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. **16** But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: **17** “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;*

## IV. The Object of the Gospel

- A. Reveal the glory of His holiness & righteousness – Salvation declares God will not ignore sin.
- B. Reveal the glory of His mercy – Mercy keeps God from blotting out the sinner and his sin. Salvation (the plan) is God’s mercy in action.
- C. Reveal the glory of His love – God is a person and sent His Son in love into the world for the salvation of sinners. Romans, He spared not His own son.
- D. Reveal the glory of His justice – He is just and justifier (Romans 3)
- E. Reveal the glory of His power -incarnation; virgin birth; His victory over Satan (Col 2:15; Eph 2:2)

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A. What is the Gospel's ultimate destination? It is the glory of God. It is not what salvation does for us, but rather what salvation allows us to do for God. God saves us that we might glorify Him.

1. Sin at its root is the failure to glorify God. **Daniel 5:23**, *The vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.*
2. Westminster Confession (shorter), Q: What is the chief end of man? A: The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.
  - a) Proof of our salvation lies in our desire to do that (Glorify Him).
  - b) **1 Corinthians 10:31**, *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

B.