

Presenting the Gospel in its Context:
Faithfully Sowing the Seed According to the Scriptures
“The Gospel Presentation” with Highlighted Scriptures for Easy Reference
By Dr. Stuart Scott

I. Understanding God—Part 1: A Few Specific Attributes

Goal: Our goal in this section is to emphasize the majesty and holiness of God. He is pure light, and no darkness is in him at all. He is set apart. It’s also to emphasize his perfect justice. He will not overlook any iniquity, and nothing will be hidden from him, therefore, if anyone has something to hide, they should be consumed by terror. Our goal is to establish a reverence for the Lord.

A. There is no one like the one true God

1. Deut. 4:35; **Job 38:4-11**; Ps. 86:8-10; Isa. 40:18, 25–26; 44:6–7a; 46:5, 9; **Jer. 10:1-10**.

B. He is triune (three distinct persons, of one substance, different in function)

1. God is one: **Deut. 6:4; James 2:19**.
2. The Plurality to God’s oneness: **Gen 1:26; John 1:1-2,14; John 10:30; 1 Cor 8:6**; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2.
3. Illustration & Example of the Trinity: **Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 3:21-22**.

a. The Functions of Each Person of God:

- 1) God the Father: *Creator of all things. Gen 1:1 Love and Mercy toward humanity by initiating all things and authoring salvation. **John 3:16-17**.*
- 2) God The Son: *He was with God during creation (John 1:1-3). He took on humanity and dwelt among us, taking the position of a servant (**John 1:14; Phil 2:6-11**). He earned a perfect righteousness (Matt 5:17; Heb 9:.. He offered Himself as a sin offering for mankind. Col. 2:9; **1 Thess. 1:2-5**;*
- 3) God The Holy Spirit: *The Helper, sent to effect heart change in unbelievers, resides in the hearts of God’s elect. **Acts 5:3-4***

C. He is the creator, and he is personal

1. **Gen. 1:26; Ps. 23:1-6**; 95:6–7; 100:3; Isa. 44:24; John 16:14; 17:1, 4, 22–26; Acts 17:24–25; **Eph. 1:3-5**; Col. 1:16–17 (“through him and for him.”)

D. He is almighty and sovereign

1. Deut. 32:39; **1 Chronicles 29:11**; Ps. 24:1–2; 47:7–8; 103:19; 135:5–6; Isa. 46:9–11; **Dan. 4:34b-35**; Rom. 1:20; 8:28–29.

E. He is eternal

1. Isa. 57:15; **Ps. 90:2**; Col. 1:16–20; Jude 24–25; **Rev. 1:8; 22:13**.

F. He is righteous and holy

1. Lev. 11:44; 1 Sam. 2:2; **Ps. 5:4**; Isa. 6:3; Hab. 1:13; **1 Peter 1:14–16**; **1 John 1:5**; Rev. 4:8.

G. He is just

1. **Deut. 32:4**; **Ps. 9:7–8**; 89:14; Ecc. 12:14; Acts 17:31; Gal. 3:10; 1 Peter 3:18.

II. Understanding Man as Originally Created Before the Fall

Goal: Our goal with this section is to emphasize that God created mankind to live harmoniously with God in intimate fellowship. This relationship was intended to evoke joy, peace, closeness, safety, and security.

A. Man was created in God's image to (1) worship God, (2) delight in him, (3) reflect his glory, (4) live for his advantage, and (5) proclaim his majesty

1. **Deut. 10:12–13**; **Ps. 16:11**; 73:25–26; Isa. 43:6–7; Col. 1:16–18.

B. Man was created to be (1) loved, (2) cared for, (3) blessed by, (4) taught by, (5) satisfied by and comforted by God, and (6) to walk with him

1. **Gen. 1:27–30**; **2:15–17**; **3:8**; Ex. 6:7; Deut. 4:20; Ps. 100:3; 107:8–9; Isa. 30:18; 43:4; Ezek. 14:11; John 4:24; 14:22–23; Titus 2:14.

III. Understanding Sin—Breaking or Not Keeping God's Law

Goal: Sin originated in heaven when Satan sought to be God himself. Man sinned against God with the same sin, desiring to be our own God. It was an act of mutiny and rebellion. Our goal in this section is to define and illustrate what sin is and how it functions. Sin by nature separates. It divides husbands and wives, parents from children, friends, etc. Anytime there is division, you can be certain that sin is present.

A. Sin began with Satan in heaven.

1. Gen. 3:1–15; Isa. 14:12; Luke 10:18; 2 Peter 2:4; **Jude 6**.

B. Sin on earth began with Adam and has been passed to all mankind

1. Gen. 2:17–18; **3:1–7**; **Rom. 3:23**; **5:12, 18**.

C. We are responsible individually for choosing to sin.

1. Eccl. 7:20; Isa. 53:6; **Ezek. 18:2, 20**; Rom. 3:23; Gal. 3:10; Eph. 2:1–3; **1 John 1:8–10**.

D. Sin separates.

1. Gen. 3:8–24; Isa. 53:6a; 59:2; **Titus 3:3**.

E. God's wrath is upon all the unsaved.

1. Ps. 5:4; Prov. 15:8–9; John 3:36; **Rom. 1:18**.

F. Death, judgment, and hell are the results of our sin.

1. Ex. 34:6–7; Ps. 7:11; **Matt. 10:28**; **13:38–42**, **49–50**; 25:31–46; Acts 17:30; Rom. 6:23; Gal. 3:10; 1 Thess. 1:10; Heb. 9:27; 10:26–27; Rev. 20:11–15.

G. Mankind has is totally depraved since the fall of Adam.

1. **Jer. 17:9–10**; Rom. 3:10–18; Eph. 2:1–3; 4:17–19; Titus 3:3.

IV. Understanding Our Hopelessness apart from God's Grace

Goal: This section's goal is to illustrate mankind's objective stance before a Holy, perfect, and just God. No person will be found righteous or justified on their merit, nor can it be earned by works. Man cannot be justified by being born into a Christian family. Our sin debt is hopelessly beyond what we could imagine atoning for on our own.

- A. Man will not, by nature, be righteous.
 - 1. Eccl. 7:20; Isa. 53:6; 64:6; John 1:13; **Rom. 3:10–18.**
- B. Man cannot be made righteous by works.
 - 1. **Eph. 2:8–9**; Phil. 3:1–10; Titus 3:4–7; James 2:10.
- C. Man is not made righteous by heritage or lineage.
 - 1. **John 1:13**; Phil. 3:4–7.
- D. Man will not, by our own will, be made righteous, nor seek it.
 - 1. John 1:12–13; 6:44, 65; Phil. 3:9; **Ezek. 36:26–27.**
- E. Our debt is insurmountable.
 - 1. Ps. 130:3; **Matt. 18:21–35**; Luke 7:40–50.
- F. We have no hope if we are trusting and relying on ourselves.
 - 1. Rom. 2:2–3; Gal. 3:10, 22–24; **Eph. 2:12**; Phil. 3:1–10; Col. 3:5–6; 1 Thess. 4:13.

Before moving on from this section, reviewing and summarizing what was covered would be wise.

God is perfect and holy. His justice is always perfect. God created man in his image to enjoy an intimate and close relationship with him, glorifying God in all that we do. Sin originated in heaven and spread to mankind. It separated mankind from the harmonious and intimate relationship we had, and it also separated mankind from each other. Due to this sinful nature, all have been separated from God and, apart from Him, stand in utter hopelessness, destined to hell for eternity because of sinfulness.

This summary is meant to emphasize the severity and seriousness of their situation. That if something doesn't change, they can only look forward to damnation for eternity.

V. Understanding God—Part 2: More Specific Attributes¹

Goal: The goal of this section is to develop a more complete view of God, not just his justice and perfection, but also His love, grace, and mercy. After confronting our hopeless situation, this section is meant to usher in peace and hope, that God's love for us is so awesome that it's difficult to comprehend.

A. He is merciful and compassionate

1. Ex. 33:19; Ps. 36:5; 145:8–9; Isa. 63:9; **Lam. 3:31–33**; John 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:3; 1 John 4:8.

B. He is all-wise

1. Isa. 55:8; **Rom. 11:33–34**.

C. He is gracious in two ways:

1. His common grace—**Matt. 5:43–48**; Rom. 2:4.
2. His saving grace, which he bestows for His elect—**John 6:37, 44, 65**; Rom. 9:15–16; Eph. 1:3–6; 2:4–7; 1 Thess. 1:4.

D. He is angry with the wicked, yet loving at the same time

1. Ps. 5:4; **Prov. 15:8–9**; **John 3:16**; 1 John 3:16; 4:8–10; Mark 10:17–22.

VI. Understanding the Incarnation

Goal: Christ is fully God and fully man. He was the embodiment of the Word of God becoming flesh, meaning He fully lived out the Word of God perfectly. His sacrificial death on the cross paid, in full, the penalty for our sins, satisfying God's righteous wrath against us sinners. Christ's earned righteousness is now imputed unto believers (accounted to them fully, as if they had done the work themselves).

A. Jesus Christ, the God-man

1. **John 1:1, 14**; Mark 10:45; Phil. 2:5–11.

B. Jesus' life: 100 percent righteous

1. 2 Cor. 5:21; **Heb. 4:15**.

C. Jesus' death: His sacrifice paid, in full, the penalty for our sins; thus satisfying God's wrath; Christ's righteousness is now imputed unto believers.

1. Rom. 5:19; **2 Cor. 5:21**; Gal. 3:13–14; 1 Peter 3:18.

D. God the Father was satisfied with Christ's death

1. **Isa. 53:10–11**.

E. Jesus' resurrection: power over death and hope to come

1. 1 Cor. 15:3–4; **1 Peter 1:3–5**.

F. God offers reconciliation by grace through faith in Christ

1. Acts 17:30–31; **Rom. 6:23; 10:13**; 2 Cor. 5:18–19; Eph. 2:13.

¹ These are only a sampling of the attributes of God. For further reading, see Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991).

- G. God declares believers to be justified through Christ
 - 1. **Rom. 3:24–26.**
- H. God offers forgiveness of sins and heaven to believers only through Jesus
 - 1. **John 14:1–6**; Acts 4:12; Col. 2:13.
- I. God seeks worshipers and a people for himself through Jesus
 - 1. Isa. 45:22; **John 4:23**; Eph. 1:4.

VII. Understanding Saving Faith (“believing”)—John 1:12; 3:16

Goal: Man can have knowledge about God, that He exists, but have failed to put their hope and faith in Him fully for their salvation. A true saving faith exists when someone puts their total reliance on Jesus Christ for their salvation. They trust in both His earned righteousness and the sacrifice He made on the cross.

- A. The knowledge (content) of the gospel, with Jesus as the object of faith
 - 1. **John 17:3**; Heb. 6:4; 10:26; James 2:19.
- B. The agreement (intellectual assent) with the gospel facts
 - 1. Matt. 13:20; John 6:44, 65; Acts 26; Heb. 6:4; **James 2:19.**
- C. The trust (personal transfer) and reliance from oneself to Jesus alone for justification
 - 1. **Isa. 55:6–7**; Matt. 13:23; Luke 14:25–33; John 14:21; Acts 3:19; 11:18; 2 Cor. 5:15; Phil. 3:9; 1 Thess. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:25–26).
 - a. This involves godly sorrow and repentance for all sin, an about-face and an all-out pursuit to love, submit to, fully trust in, and follow after the Lord Jesus Christ in obedience to his revealed will, by the Spirit’s enablement (grace, Acts 11:18; **2 Tim. 2:24–26**).
 - b. This saving faith will always result in good works (**Eph. 2:10**; James 2:26). Faith and repentance are the only evidence that a man has a new heart: turning from sin to Christ reveals a new heart; failure to turn from sin and to Christ reveals an old heart.

VIII. Coming to Christ

Goal: This section reviews various ways people can turn to the Lord for salvation. It is meant for self-reflection. As you read each verse and discuss why each way is wrong, the individual can consider their motives. This is often the point at which you jump into the counseling process and transition away from such a heavy emphasis on the Gospel.

- A. Signs someone is coming to Christ without true faith: (**Matt. 7:21–23**; 19:16–22.)
 - 1. Doing God a favor that is deserving of his grace—“I’m so special.”
 - 2. Only for fire insurance (to avoid hell at death)—“I don’t want to suffer forever.”
 - 3. Adding a good and helpful thing to my life—“Why not, it can’t hurt?”
 - 4. So I can go to heaven with my family—“I want to see and be with them.”
 - 5. Wanting to become a better person—“I’m already good and this can make me better.”

6. So Jesus can give me what I want, but I'm still living for my advantage.
 7. Wanting to be saved "in my sin" and not "from my sin."
- B. Signs someone is coming to Christ in true faith:
1. With the right attitude
 - a. Humbled with a broken and contrite heart over my sin before a holy God
 - 1) Matt. 5:3–5; Luke 15:18–19; **18:13–14**.
 - b. Overwhelmed by God's underserved goodness
 - 1) **Rom 11:33-36**
 2. With the right intentions—Jesus Christ as Lord.
 - a. With a true desire and determination to turn from my sin and from living for myself
 - 1) 2 Cor. 5:15; **7:9–11**; **1 Thess. 1:9**.
 - b. With a true desire and determination to depend on Christ's righteousness and to live for him.
 - 1) **2 Cor. 5:15**; 1 Thess. 1:9.
 - c. To whose advantage ("for" whom) am I living? **2 Cor 5:15**
 - 1) World—**Rom. 12:1–2**; 2 Cor. 10:5; 1 John 2:15–17.
 - 2) Sex—1 Cor. 7:1; **1 Thess. 4:3–8**; 1 Tim. 5:1–2.
 - 3) Work—**Col. 3:23–25**; 2 Thess. 3:6–9.
 - 4) Future—**Matt. 6:33**; James 4:15.
 - 5) Church—1 Cor. 12:12, 25; Eph. 4:11–13; **Heb. 10:24–25**.
 - 6) Bible—**John 14:21**; 1 John 5:2–3.
 - 7) Appearance—1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Peter 3:3–4.
 - 8) Others—**Rom. 12:9–13**; 2 Cor. 5:18–20; Gal. 5:13.
- C. Evidence that someone is saved:
1. Matt 5:16; **Eph 2:10**; Jam 2:14-18; **1 John 2:4-6**.

IX. Understanding Our Reconciliation with God—2 Cor. 5

- A. We are now at peace with God.
 - 1. **Rom 8:1; 5:1**
- B. He has given us a new heart.
 - 1. **Ezek. 36:25–27**; 11:19–20; 2 Cor. 5:17.
- C. God has reconciled us (His elect) to Himself.
 - 1. **2 Cor. 5:17–18**; Eph. 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18.
- D. He is our God, and we are his people.
 - 1. Rom. 9:23–26; **1 Peter 2:24–25**; Rev. 21:3.
- E. He is our shepherd, high priest, comforter, and guide.
 - 1. **Ps. 23**; John 10:27–28; 2 Cor. 1:3–4; Heb. 4:14–16.
- F. We are called to be His ambassadors to other.
 - 1. Matt. 28:19–20; **2 Cor. 5:18, 20**.
- G. He will take us home (by death or by his return) to live with him in his presence forever.
 - 1. **John 14:1–3**; Col. 3:1–4; 1 Thess. 1:9–10; Rev. 22:1–3.
- H. We are called to love him, love others, and make disciples while we wait
 - 1. **Matt. 22:37–40; 28:19–20**; 2 Cor. 5:18, 20.

X. Warning to Those Who Reject the Gospel

- A. Because of unbelief.
 - 1. **John 3:36**; 5:24; 1 John 2:19.
- B. Because of abandoning the only hope.
 - 1. **John 14:6**; Acts 4:12; **Heb. 6:4–8**; 10:26–31.
- C. Their way is treacherous.
 - 1. **Prov. 13:15**; Heb. 3:12–19.
- D. They will never experience what a life of worshiping God is like.
 - 1. Matt. 19:16–22; **John 10:10**.
- E. They will be separated from God and his grace forever.
 - 1. **Rev. 20:12–15; 21:8**.