

The Gospel Plan: God's Sovereign Work and Our Calling

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Summary

God's Gospel Plan: From Creation to Completion

Scripture References

Primary text

- Genesis 3:15
- John 17:20-21
- Revelation 5:3-4

Other references

- Galatians 4:4
- Genesis 1:28
- Genesis 2:17
- Ezekiel 36
- Genesis 3
- Genesis 11
- Matthew 28:19-20
- Luke 14
- Revelation 5:8-9

Overview

The gospel is first and last about the holiness of God. From creation through the fall, to redemption in Christ and ultimate restoration, every movement is God's own initiative, perfectly ordered and certain to succeed. Before the foundation of the world the Father, Son, and Spirit agreed on a plan that Jesus has finished and the Spirit now applies. The church therefore lives as a worship-filled people who proclaim and model this plan until Christ returns and all creation sings, "Worthy is the Lamb."

Context

This is week five in the “Gospel-Shaped Outreach” series, aimed at grounding evangelism in a full, Bible-wide view of the gospel rather than a reduced “ticket to heaven.” Tonight's focus: grasping God's overarching plan so we can share it with confidence and humility.

Main Points

1. The story begins with God's holiness

- Four repeating themes frame all of Scripture: creation, fall, redemption, restoration.
- God's flawless character governs every detail; nothing is random or reactive.
- Illustration: the Fibonacci spiral in a snail shell shows the same precision found in salvation history—God orders both nature and redemption.

2. A pre-creation covenant within the Trinity

- Father initiated, Son accomplished, Spirit applies (Galatians 4:4).
- The plan is monergistic—one divine work entirely guaranteed by God.
- Because God alone secures the outcome, believers can rest and rejoice instead of striving.

3. Plan revealed: standards, failure, promise (Genesis 1–3)

- Genesis 1:28 – mandate to be fruitful, multiply, subdue, rule.
- Genesis 2:17 – probationary command requiring obedience and trust.
- Humanity rebelled; consequences: separation from God, relational disharmony, cursed creation.
- Genesis 3:15 – first gospel announcement: the woman's seed will crush the serpent's head while being bruised. Permanent victory foretold, temporary suffering acknowledged.

4. Progressive unveiling through the Old Testament

- Ezekiel 36 promises heart replacement and Spirit-empowered obedience.
- Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) and Abrahamic covenant show God scattering then regathering the nations through a family of faith.
- Repeated reminders keep stiff-necked people focused on the coming Messiah; 3:15 was sufficient, yet God graciously clarified across generations.

5. Fulfillment in Christ: “It is finished”

“Tetelestai” – a legal term meaning the contract is complete.

- Jesus fulfilled the Law rather than abolishing it, absorbed the curse of Genesis 3, and satisfied every legal demand.
- Salvation and restoration are fully accomplished; nothing remains for sinners to add.

6. The church's appointed role

- John 17:20-21 – Jesus prays for those who will believe through the disciples' word; unity and witness are inseparable.
- Matthew 28:19-20 – Great Commission frames the church as disciple-making disciples.
- Making disciples is a messy way of life, not a plug-in program: walking with people through sin, questions, and growth.
- Story: A young husband (Tim) long resistant to Christ suddenly believed after years of seeds and watering, illustrating God's timing and the beauty of patient witness.

7. Living tools, not causal agents

- God ordains both the end (people's salvation) and the means (gospel proclaimed by His people).
- Understanding this guards us from pride when someone responds and from despair when they don't.
- Even apparent rejection reveals facets of God's character—justice, patience, steadfast love.

8. Plan concluded: cosmic worship (Revelation 5)

- John weeps because no one can open the scroll; heaven erupts in praise when the slain Lamb steps forward.
- The final scene is not defeat but jubilant worship—every tribe and tongue united under Christ.
- Today's obedience anticipates that eternal chorus.

Key Truths

- God's gospel plan was settled before creation and cannot fail.
- The holiness of God frames every part of the gospel; sin is serious because God is holy.
- Jesus has already fulfilled every legal and covenantal requirement—salvation is finished work, not human effort.
- The church is God's chosen instrument; disciple-making is a lifestyle of worshipful, word-centered presence among the lost.

- Confidence in God's sovereignty fuels bold witness, while humility keeps us from boasting in results.

Response

- Rest in Christ's finished work; stop trying to earn what He has completed.
- Speak the full gospel—holiness, sin, cross, resurrection, restoration—whenever God opens a door.
- Engage lost friends and family patiently; walk with them through questions and mess.
- Celebrate every glimpse of God's character—grace, justice, patience—whether people accept or resist.
- Pray for boldness and clarity, trusting the Spirit to give life.

Closing

The plan that began in the mind of God now lives in His people and will end in worldwide worship. Our task is not to manufacture results but to echo heaven's song on earth, confident that the Lamb who was slain is worthy and will gather His own.

Prayer

The leader closed by thanking God for including the church in His sure plan, asking for boldness, open doors with resistant family members, and healing for sick church members, all “to the praise of Your glorious name.”