

## Chapter 1: Introduction & Theme

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# The Holy Bible is the Word of God

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- Hebrews 4:12
  - <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is **living and powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged **sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- Jeremiah 23:29
  - <sup>29</sup> “Is not My word like a **fire**?” says the LORD, “And like a **hammer** that breaks the rock in pieces?”

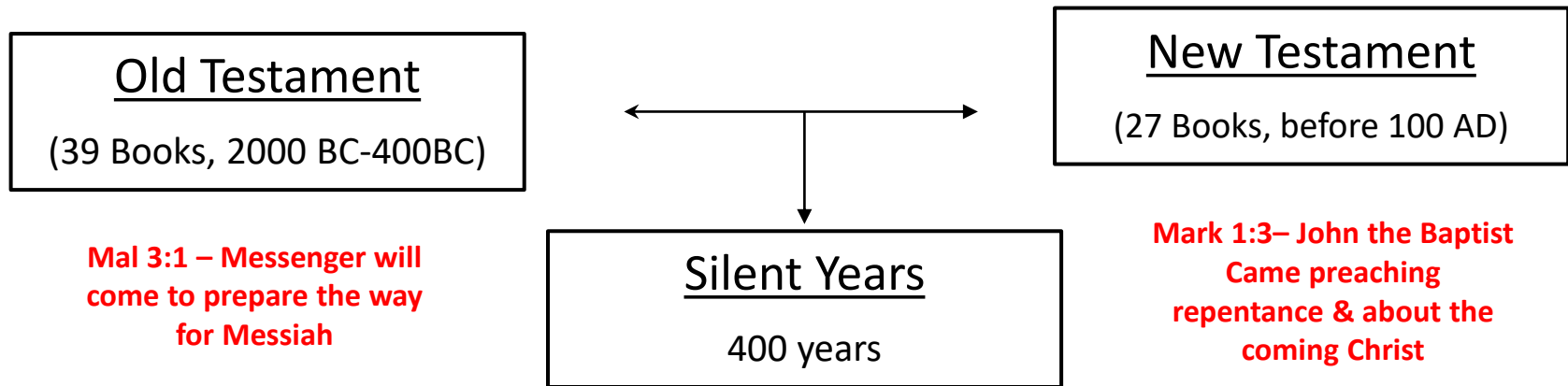
**All Scripture is the inspired Word of God, and is  
Powerful like a  
“FIRE”, a “HAMMER” and a “SWORD”**

# What Famous People Said of the Bible

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- The **Bible** is no mere book, but a Living Creature, with a power that conquers all that oppose it. **Napoleon**
- I believe the **Bible** is the best gift God has ever given to man. **Abraham Lincoln**
- A thorough knowledge of the **Bible** is worth more than a college education. It is necessary for the welfare of the nation that men's lives be based on the principles of the Bible. No man, educated or uneducated, can afford to be ignorant of the Bible. **Theodore Roosevelt**
- A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of a knowledge of the **Bible**. **Woodrow Wilson**
- There are more sure marks of authenticity in the **Bible** than in any profane history. All my discoveries have been made in answer to prayer...I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily” **Sir Isaac Newton** (1642-1727)
- It is clear that there must be difficulties for us in a revelation such as the **Bible**. ... There must be, in any complete revelation of God's mind and will and character and being, things hard for the beginner to understand; and the wisest and best of us are but beginners. **R.A. Torrey**

# The Holy Bible – Context Overview



- **The entire Bible has one great theme, the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ**, who is God revealed in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16), and whose sacrificial death and resurrection to save mankind from judgement and the penalty of sin, constitutes the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
- Over the period of 2,000 years before Jesus, the OT prophets promised a Rescuer, the Christ, the Anointed Messiah who would save the world from the slavery of sin and final judgement.
- In the OT, sin was atoned for (satisfied God) by animal sacrifices, but the final eternal redemptive act of God to save mankind would be provided by the shed blood of the sinless “Lamb of God” which would be Christ. **Salvation is by Faith in the Crucified Christ.**
- There are over 300 prophecies of Christ’s first coming in the OT that were fulfilled, from Genesis 3:15 to Malachi 4:5, (and over 1,800 prophecies on **His Second Coming which are still to be fulfilled!**).
- **Christ was prophesied as both a Royal & Priestly Messiah from the line of David (Psalm 110:1; Jer. 33:14-16) and as a Suffering Servant. (Isaiah 53).**

# God's Dispensations of Time

In-break of the Kingdom  
"the time is fulfilled" Mark 1:15

The End of the Age;  
**Day of the Lord,**  
Second Coming

The Age to Come, →

## Age of the Law

(Period from Moses to Pentecost)

## Church Age

(Dispensation of the Holy Spirit or of Grace – New Covenant)

## Millennial Age

(after rapture, The Second Coming of Christ)

1<sup>st</sup> the Suffering & the Cross

2<sup>nd</sup> the Glory & the Throne

Time of sin & longing for the fulness of the Spirit; temple worship; prophets; overlap with Church Age

Holy Spirit permanently indwells believers, and are justified by Faith in Jesus Christ

Jesus will rule as King on physical earth on David's throne. Satan will no longer be ruler, 1,000 years

1<sup>st</sup> – Evangelization of Gentiles (Acts 15:14)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Restoration of Israel

2500 years from Adam to Moses

2,000 years from Jesus to the Current Time

1,000 years reign of Jesus Christ after His return – then Eternity in Heaven – Rev. 21

1500 years from Moses to Jesus

4,000 years = 4 days

2,000 years = 2 days

1,000 years = 1 days

7 days is God's Perfect Number (creation)

# Romans

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- “This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.”

## **Martin Luther**

- “...when I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, He justifies us through faith...I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise...this passage became a gateway to heaven.”

## **Martin Luther**

# Romans Overview

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- Roman's is considered by many to be the greatest document in human history.
- The most systematic description of God's plan and purpose for saving sinners.
- Romans is the greatest doctrinal book of the Gospel of Christ and has been the most influential book in church history (Augustine, Luther, Wesley, Bunyan).
- Emphasis on Christian doctrine & theology such as: sin, salvation, grace, faith, righteousness, justification, sanctification, redemption, death, resurrection, eschatology, and divine sovereignty.
- Widespread use of OT quotations, more than in all the other Pauline letters combined. 61 direct quotations from 14 different OT books. (Psalms and Isaiah )
- Key Words Used: **God** 154 times; **Law** 77 times; **Christ** 66 times; **Sin** 45 times; **Lord** 44 times; **Faith** 40 times; **Holy Spirit** 27 times (92 times in the entire NT)
- Deep concern for Israel. Paul writes about its present status, its relationship to the Gentiles, and its final salvation.
- Romans will captivate the greatest genius, yet bring tears to the humblest soul. 7

# Romans Overview

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- Apostle Paul, a Jew from Tarsus, a Pharisee under Gamaliel, chosen by God as the Apostle to the Gentiles.
- Written between **AD 55-58** from Corinth on 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey (before the first Gospel of Mark, written after 60AD).
- Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire & the World, and therefore the most strategic city for Christian missions. Nero (A.D. 54–68) was reigning as emperor.
- **Paul's main theology is "Justification (to be declared righteous) by faith"** – that the sinner is declared righteous before God through simple faith in Jesus Christ, not by the works of the law of Moses.
- Explains the utter sinfulness of man and the adequacy of the completed work of Christ to save by grace through faith all who come to God by Him.
- **Romans Overview Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE4Q3Wly26g>



# Romans 1 – Scripture

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKWMnJXCw40>

# Scripture – Romans 1:1-4

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- <sup>1</sup> Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God
- <sup>2</sup> which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,
- <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- <sup>4</sup> *and declared to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

# Romans 1:1

## Introduction

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- Opening idea (“Gospel”) is stated, developed and returned to in conclusion. V1. is very Significant & echoes themes in Isaiah
  - **Bondservant** – Slave of Lord Jesus, who was purchased by blood of Christ - Redemption- 3:24; 6:16-23 (Abraham, Moses, Joshua)
  - **Called** - Chosen/Predestined - (Is. 41:9; 42:6; 43:1; 49:1-13)
  - **Apostle** – Sent out with authority (Is. 6:8 “Send me.”)-privilege
  - **Separated** — in OT God set apart His chosen people; Gal 1:15
  - **Gospel of God** – The good news is from God (explained in v. 2-4)
- **Big Themes** - Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, was divinely chosen to preach the gospel of God in Christ, and is rooted in OT.

## Romans 1:2

# Gospel is Promised in the OT

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- Gospel of God is fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecies, (beginning with Gen. 12:1-3 - Abrahamic Covenant to bless His descendants).
- Shows that God keeps His promises
- Written by the Prophets in the Holy Scriptures
  - Prophets spoke the Word of God
  - Holy Scriptures – “Holy” means unique and precious because they are spoken by God.
- **Big Theme** – The Gospel of God was planned and predicted long ago by the prophets.

## Romans 1:3-4

# Gospel is all about Jesus Christ

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- “concerning His **Son**...descended **from David**...in **Power**...Spirit of **holiness and resurrection** from the dead...Jesus Christ our **Lord**.”
- **Son** – means Jesus Christ is God and has always existed
- **Descendant of David** – Davidic Covenant: [1 Chronicles 17:11–14](#); Jer. 23:5; Isaiah 11:10
- **Power** – not political power, but Power over Sin & Death!
- **Spirit of Holiness** – Romans 8:11 – Christ was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit, who will also raise believers.
- **Lord** – means that Jesus is God and is worthy of being committed to, submitted to and obeyed out of love for Him.

## Romans 1:5

# Grace & Apostleship

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- Grace is the heart of the Gospel.
- **Grace is undeserved mercy, a free “gift” to the recipient**, but costs something of the giver.
- The wonder of God’s Love and Grace can only be understood in light of God’s justice and wrath.
- You need to know who you were before Christ....A Sinner (Rom. 3:23), judged guilty of breaking God’s Holy laws and deserving of death (Rom. 6:23).
- Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace are you saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves.” (Rom. 3:22-24)
- We don’t deserve God’s grace, but Rom. 5:8 says “but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 1:5 (Rom. 16:26)

# Obedience to the Faith

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- Evidence of salvation is faith that results in a life of obedience to God's Word.
- To fulfill the Great Commission & obey His Commands.
- To sides of the same Salvation coin – Faith + Obedience (song "Trust & Obey").
- Obedience requires you to recognize Christ not only as **Saviour**, but also as the **Lord** of your life (**Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:36; Matthew 7:22-27**).

# Romans 1:8-15 – Paul’s Motives

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1. **Thankful** heart for others
2. **Concerned** for believers (prayed for them)
3. **Obedient** to God’s will (advancement of kingdom)
4. **Loving** Spirit – wants to give them spiritual gifts
5. **Humble** Spirit – The great Paul wants encouragement from these beginners
6. **Desire to be Fruitful** – new converts & discipleship
7. **Debtor** to God & Gentiles – Felt obligation to save the lost – he has the cure for to save from the disease of sin
8. **Eager** to Boldly Preach the Gospel (and unashamed)



# Romans 1:16-17 – Gospel of Christ

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- **Unashamed** – even though it is foolishness and offensive to the unsaved (Jews were ashamed; Mark 8:38). [Why would people/we be ashamed?](#)
- **Power of God** – only God can forgive sin – “**Dynamite**”
- **Salvation** – rescue from penalty & power of sin, new nature & eternal life
- **Faith** – “from faith to faith” – a continuous Trusting in Christ; like a marriage; not just a one-time event;
- **Righteousness** – God imputes His righteousness to those who Trust in His Son, as their Lord & Saviour
- **The Just Shall Live by Faith** – Habakkuk 2:4

# What is the Gospel?

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- A means of **forgiveness** of **sin**?
- A means of getting to **heaven** and avoiding **hell**?
- **How to Live** a morally good life and be happy?

Forgiveness is  
the cause

Eternal Life is  
the result

Lifestyle is the  
result

# The Gospel of Christ = Salvation Message

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- **The Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation**
- **Like a force of nature** – Supernatural – Greek word for “power” is “**DYNAMITE**” – beyond man’s power.
- Gospel is not: a code of ethics or morals or creeds or system of religion or just good advice.
- **It’s about Saving Your Soul (for eternity)– 1 Peter 1:8-9**
- **Salvation is by Faith in Christ & Christ Crucified**
- **Only 1 Gospel – 1 Gal:6-9**

# The Gospel – 2 Parts

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## 1. Gospel of Grace – Salvation Message

- Good news of salvation & eternal life. Jesus died on the Cross for the sins of the world, He was raised from the dead, and all who believe in Him are saved from sin and its punishment (justified) and given the gift of eternal life. (1 Cor. 15:3-4, Rom. 6:23)

## 2. Gospel of the Kingdom

- **The good news that Christ (the Son of David) is returning to set up the Kingdom of God on Earth.** (Davidic covenant, 2 Samuel 7:16; Is. 9:6-7; Matt 9:35; 24:14).

# What is the Gospel?

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- **Romans describes the Gospel primarily as a Salvation from Unrighteousness to Righteousness**
- Therefore, The Gospel is all about receiving the gift of **Eternal Life** by **attaining the Righteousness of God by faith in Christ.**

# The Gospel is the Righteousness of God Revealed

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- **What is Righteousness?**

- Right Standing with God as measured by God's Holy standards.
- Perfectly obeying all of God's 613 laws and other commands given by Jesus. This is impossible for man to do on his own. If you break even one law, you have broken all of the laws (James..).
- Breaking any of God's laws is Sin. We cannot have any past sin and meet the Righteous Requirements of God.
- Since the Penalty of Sin is spiritual death, the only need for mankind is to have our sin problem solved so we can have Eternal Life.
- 2 Cor. 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (the great exchange)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kS9fAWCuYU>

# Salvation of God

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- To be saved from **sin** and it's punishment, which is death & eternity in **hell**, and to receive **forgiveness** and **eternal life** with Jesus in **Heaven**.
- Salvation is by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ, is a free gift and is without works (morality, religion and good works do not save)
- Includes all the redemptive acts of:
  - Justification
  - Redemption
  - Grace
  - Propitiation
  - Atonement
  - Substitutionary
  - Imputation
  - Forgiveness
  - Sanctification
  - Glorification

## 3 Tenses

- Past – Christians are saved from the guilt and penalty of sin
- Present – Christians are saved from the power & dominion of sin
- Future – Christians are saved from the presence of sin at the Lord's Return

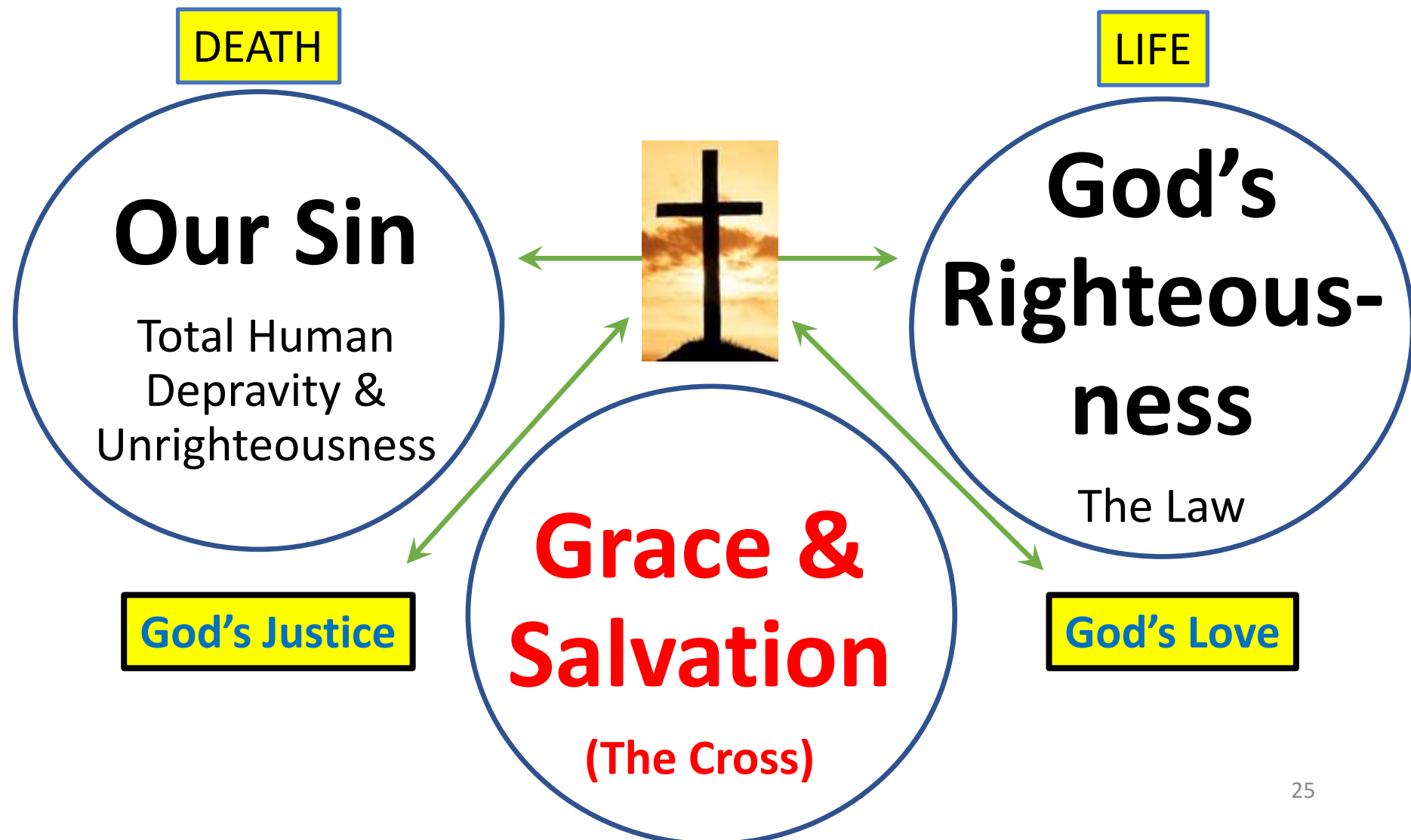
# Salvation = “repent and believe”

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- **Repentance** – for the unsaved person means a heartfelt, sorrowful recognition that you are a lost, helpless sinner who needs God’s forgiveness. (a change in mind resulting in a change in lifestyle – “Have mercy on me, a sinner”)
- **Believe = Trust = Faith (total confidence in and dependence on Jesus)**
  - that Jesus Christ is God and your saviour, and with faith, accept Him into your **heart** as your Lord with a desire to follow Him.
  - It’s more than intellectual, even **the demons “believed”** and trembled, **it must be from the heart and there must be a change in your life.**
- **Salvation** - When we do our part by Repenting & Believing, God does His part by providing us salvation, which is the **forgiveness of sins and eternal life.**
  - **No effort required – Just Trust (with a repentant heart)**
  - **But it does require Commitment** - like a marriage to a spouse where on the wedding day you trust your spouse to love and care for your needs for the rest of your life.
  - Repentance & Faith go together, because it’s impossible to put your faith in Christ as your Lord & Saviour, without first changing your mind about who He is and what he has done.<sup>2,4</sup>



# Grace of God Revealed is Revealed through the Cross



# The Salvation of God

**DEATH**

Sin/Child of Satan/  
Dead Spiritually/Adam  
Nature/Blind/Condemned/  
God's Wrath/Judged to Hell

- Disobedience to God's law
- Penalty of sin is death, therefore we need to be judged righteous to avoid the wrath of God



**LIFE**

Salvation  
by Grace through Faith in the  
Shed Blood of Jesus  
Christ/Justified or Declared  
Righteous by God/Heaven

- Born Again/Adoption as Child of God/Forgiven of all Past & Future Sin/No Condemnation, Eternal Life/Holy Spirit Indwells



Grace & Salvation

**The Cross**

# Paul's Gospel Sermon in Athens

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- Acts 17:16-34
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cU-LwyAL6yl>