

Greetings. I'm Joshua. I'm the pastor here at Rippon Baptist Church. I'm excited that you're visiting our website, more so that you've clicked on our link titled "What is the Gospel?" I figure you're either curious about our views on the Bible and what we believe about salvation, or that you have an interest in what the Bible might say about your current situation.

You're probably drawn to this video because you are seeking some direction based on where you are in life, and you're not happy with how it's going, or because of your past, and you're not happy with the choices you've made. I want to assure you that you are on the right path by seeking spiritual wisdom. The Bible does not just have answers to your questions, it is the answer to your question.

Let me read a passage from the Gospel of Matthew. The word gospel means good news. Matthew 7:13-14 records a sermon preached by Jesus Himself called the Sermon on the Mount. In these two verses, Jesus says this, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

He is telling us that the path that the world, or the multitudes of people take, is both wide and busy, and that it leads to destruction. This destruction is referring to eternal destruction, or what we call spiritual death. Spiritual death is defined as separation from God.

This path is contrasted by the path described in verse 14 that is narrow and difficult. It is not the popular path. It also, in contrast to the broad path, leads to what the passage refers to as life.

So what does this word life refer to? Jesus tells us what this life is in the Gospel of John, chapter 14, verse six. He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Life is not the same as the word we use today, alive. Instead of meaning alive being the opposite of deceased, it means filled and activated with life.

I'm putting a series of six verses in the dialogue [here] that will walk you through what is called the Romans Road. It is from the Book of Romans and explains very clearly both why we need salvation and how to receive that salvation.

[Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13]

In short, it says that every human being has sinned, and that sin caused a broken relationship with God. [Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"] The only way to restore that relationship is to pay for the sin.

This is seen in our justice system. For example, if we commit a crime, we cannot keep all of our current freedoms. We have to do something to pay for the crimes we have committed. In the same way, we must pay for the sins we commit. [Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."] The good news is that Jesus already paid our debt. He accomplished this on the cross where he died. [Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."] He was buried and rose again.

The last three verses in the Romans Road tells us how to be forgiven of our sins and how to be restored in our relationship with God. [Romans 10:9 - "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:13 - "For 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"] This forgiveness and restoration is the life that Jesus is referring to in the Sermon on the Mount.

It is what the gospel or the good news tells us. This relationship cannot be purchased like a product, but can only be received as it is a gift that is offered. Ephesians chapter 2, verses eight through nine tell us this. It says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

To receive salvation, all you do is have a genuine conversation with God about your sins. Ask him to forgive you of your sins and talk to him about how you know that it is only because Jesus paid the penalty for you that you can be restored and forgiven, and it is that simple. Will you have that conversation right now?

Please pause the video, talk to God, and tell him all about the past that brought you here. He wants to talk to you as well.

If you're unsure of how to have that conversation, please call me, text me, or visit our church service and seek me out. But don't wait. Do that now. [920-748-3936] It was very good to see you and to have this conversation with you.

I want to encourage you to listen to this video one more time, read those verses several more times, and stop in to tell us about that conversation you just had with your Heavenly Father.

I hope to see you soon. Goodbye, my friend.