

Not Man's Gospel

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Christianity is Reality: The Gospel Lives / Gospel; Good News / Galatians 1:11–12

God graciously makes himself known to humanity since people cannot discover him on their own. He achieves this in many ways, but supremely through his Son Jesus Christ.



Galatians 1:11–12 ESV

¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Sermon Idea: God graciously makes himself known to humanity since people cannot discover him on their own. He achieves this in many ways, but supremely through his Son Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

[let's first look at...]

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The Necessity of Revelation

We'll discuss 3 reasons for the necessity of revelation...

1. God is hidden from human view because of sin
2. People are ignorant of God
3. People cannot know God unaided

[our first reason is...]

God is hidden from human view because of sin

Isaiah 59:2 *ESV*

² but your iniquities have made a separation
between you and your God,

and your sins have hidden his face from you
so that he does not hear.

See also Dt 31:18; Is 1:15; Is 45:15; Is 64:7; Eze 39:23; Mic 3:4

[Paul speaks to this, in our second reason...]

People are ignorant of God

Acts 17:23 *ESV*

²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

See also Ex 5:2; Jdg 2:10; Je 4:22; Jn 4:22; Jn 15:21; Ga 4:8; Eph 4:18; 1 Th 4:5

People cannot know God unaided

Matthew 11:25–27 *ESV*

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²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

See also Job 34:29; 1 Co 1:21

1 Corinthians 1:21 ESV

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

- So this is not man's Gospel because He cannot know God unless God Himself has revealed Himself.

[Understanding that it is of necessity God has revealed Himself, let's look at...]

The Means by Which God Has Revealed Himself

God has revealed Himself in a variety of ways, we will briefly look at...

1. through scripture and this is the chief means of His revelation today
2. through the Holy Spirit
3. supremely in Jesus
4. through creation
5. through the Prophets
6. through visions and dreams
7. through signs, wonders, miracles

In the Scriptures

Psalm 119:105 ESV

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

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See also Ps 19:7–10; Ps 119:130; Ps 147:19; Pr 6:23; 2 Ti 3:16; 2 Pe 1:19–21

2 Timothy 3:16 *ESV*

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2 Peter 1:19–21 *ESV*

¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

By the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:17 *ESV*

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

See also Ne 9:20; Lk 2:26; Lk 12:12; Jn 14:26; 1 Co 2:10; 1 Co 2:12; 1 Jn 2:27

John 14:26 *ESV*

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

1 Corinthians 2:10 *ESV*

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12 *ESV*

¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Supremely in Jesus Christ

Hebrews 1:1–2 *ESV*

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¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

See also Jn 1:18; Jn 8:26; Jn 12:49; Jn 14:10; Jn 17:6

In the creation

Psalm 19:1 ESV

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

See also Ps 97:6; Ac 14:17; Ac 17:26–27

Romans 1:20 ESV

²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Through the prophets

Amos 3:7 ESV

⁷ “For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

See also Nu 12:6; 2 Sa 7:17; 2 Sa 7:27; Is 22:14; 1 Pe 1:12

In visions and dreams

Daniel 1:17 ESV

¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

See also Ge 15:1; Is 1:1; Eze 11:24; Da 8:1; Na 1:1; Mt 1:20; Mt 2:12; Mt 2:22; Ac 9:10; Ac 16:9; Ac 22:17–18

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In special signs

Hebrews 2:1–4 ESV

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Jdg 6:36–40 Gideon's fleece; 1 Ki 13:3–5 an altar split apart; 2 Ki 20:9–11 a shadow moving backwards

There are many examples of revelation through visions, dreams, signs, wonders and miracles, please understand that there time has passed...

1 Corinthians 13:8 ESV

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

It isn't that God is impotent or incapable of doing these things.

Those things were the infancy of God's revelation, now is a time of maturity in God's scheme of redemption and salvation...

Paul continues from 13:8 to say...

1 Corinthians 14:20 ESV

²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

- This is certainly not man's Gospel.
- He did not originate it, for instance make up God to subdue the masses
- Man's creative story telling would not be full of the discoverable ancient truths discovered in the Bible over time.
- Man did not write this book, God used man to write this book

[We also see God's self revelation in Jesus Christ...]

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The Nature of God's Self-Revelation in Jesus Christ

1. Through the Good News we are shown Jesus true identity
2. Scripture confirms Jesus as the image of God
3. We are also told of a Glory yet to be revealed

God reveals Jesus Christ's true identity

Matthew 16:17 ESV

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

See also Mt 3:17; Mt 17:5; Jn 1:31; Ga 1:15–16; 2 Pe 1:17–18

Jesus Christ is the visible image of God

Colossians 1:15 ESV

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

See also 2 Co 4:4; Php 2:6; Heb 1:3

Jesus Christ's glory is still to be fully revealed

Lk 17:30; 1 Co 1:7; 2 Th 1:7; 1 Pe 1:7; 1 Pe 1:13; 1 Pe 4:13

Luke 17:30 ESV

³⁰ so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

1 Corinthians 1:7 ESV

⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 4:13 ESV

¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

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The mystery of the gospel

Eph 3:2–3 *“mystery” in the NT means “something previously hidden, undiscoverable by human means but now revealed by God”.*

See also Mt 13:11; Ro 16:25–26; Ga 3:23; Eph 3:5–6; Col 1:26–27; 2 Ti 1:10

Romans 16:25–26 ESV

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

Ephesians 3:5–6 ESV

⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Colossians 1:26–27 ESV

²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

2 Timothy 1:10 ESV

¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

Man is not the author of God - God is the author of man

[lastly...]

God's Revelation is According to His Own Sovereign Purpose

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Isaiah 65:1 ESV

¹ I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;
I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.
I said, "Here I am, here I am,"
to a nation that was not called by my name.

See also Da 2:30; Ro 10:20; Ga 1:11–12

Romans 10:20 ESV

²⁰ Then Isaiah is so bold as to say,
"I have been found by those who did not seek me;
I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me."

Galatians 1:11–12 ESV

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Both Jesus and the Apostles (guided by the Holy Spirit)
taught that to be saved, it is necessary to one:

Hear	Romans 10:17	John 6:45
	Revelation 1:3	
Believe	John 8:30-31	Hebrews 11:6
	Acts 16:31	
Repent	Luke 13:3-5	Acts 2:38
	Acts 17:30-31	
Confess	Matthew 10:32-33	
	Romans 10:9-10	
Be Baptized	Mark 16:15-16	1 Peter 3:21
	Acts 2:38	Acts 22:16
Remain Faithful	Titus 2:11-14	Romans 12:1-2
	2 Peter 1:5-11	Revelation 2:10