

Roderick Graciano
Timothy Ministries

Reflections on the Gospel

Working toward precision in our
most important message.

Reflections on the Gospel

Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel** I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

Reflections on the Gospel

For I delivered to you as **of first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

— Paul of Tarsus, 1 Corinthians 15.1-8 (ESV)

Reflections on the Gospel

1. The gospel is simple.

How we present the gospel will vary, but the gospel itself is simple enough for a child to understand.

Reflections on the Gospel

2. The core of the gospel consists of four historical facts.

- * Christ died for our sins as Scripture had predicted.
- * He was buried.
- * He was raised the third day, as Scripture had predicted.
- * He was seen resurrected by many witnesses.

Reflections on the Gospel

2. The core of the gospel consists of four historical facts.

- * **Christ died** for our sins as Scripture had predicted.
- * **He was buried.**
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Reflections on the Gospel

3. **Jesus Christ is the gospel personified.**

If we were to omit Jesus **Christ** from the gospel, we would reduce Christianity to a Mystery Religion in which people seek a better afterlife by engaging in religious rituals.

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4. Christ's death for our sins calls us to the pursuit of holiness.

If we omit Christ's **death for sins** from the gospel, we revert to “the natural religion of humanity,” and sabotage holiness.

Reflections on the Gospel

**Expiating Death
Of Jesus**

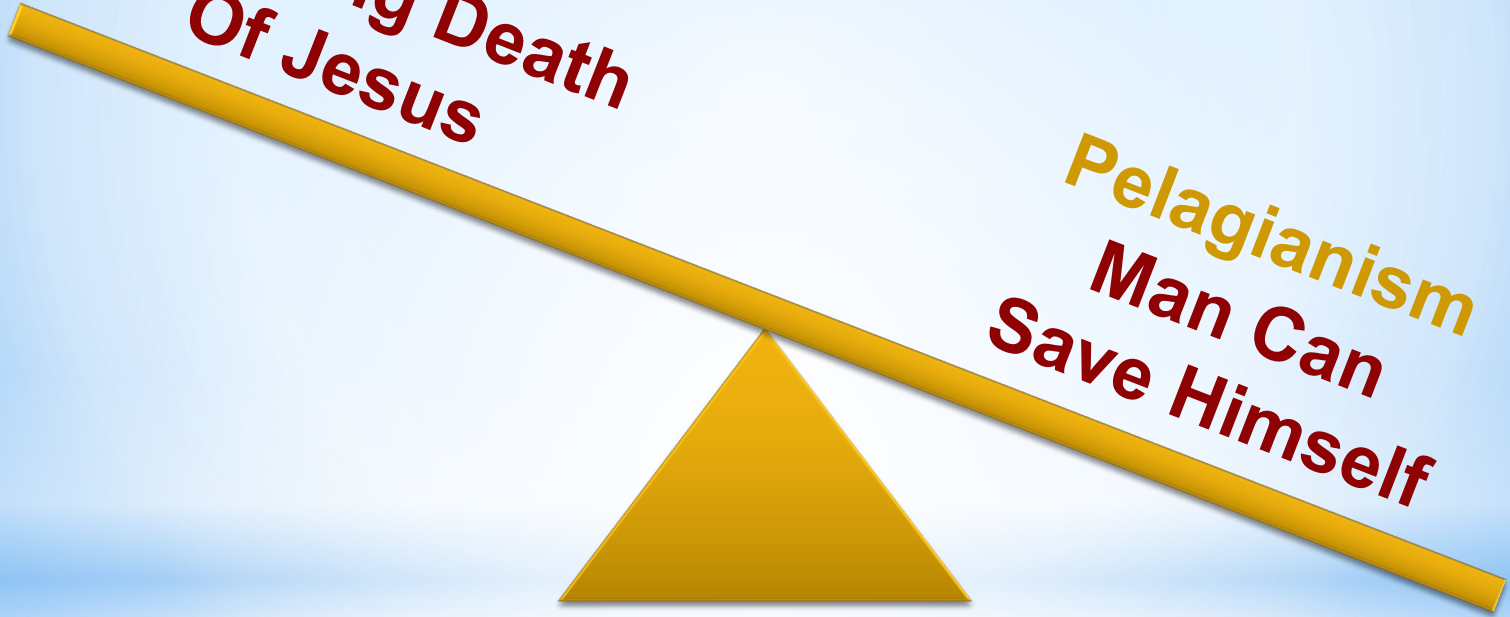
**Man Can
Save Himself**



Reflections on the Gospel

**The Gospel
Expiating Death
Of Jesus**

**Pelagianism
Man Can
Save Himself**



Reflections on the Gospel

Pelagianism
Man Can
Save Himself

The Implication
External Religion
Will Suffice



Matthew 23.25-28

Reflections on the Gospel

The Gospel

**Expiating Death
Of Jesus**

The Implication

**Man Must
Pursue Holiness**



Hebrews 12.14

Reflections on the Gospel

5. The prophecies of Christ's death and resurrection assure us that our faith is part of God's overarching plan.

If we forget that Christ's death and resurrection were prophesied, we're apt to misunderstand Christianity as a novel religion.

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6. Christ's burial assures us of the *physicality* of both His death and resurrection .

If we ignore the fact of Christ's burial, we make it easy for people to spiritualize His resurrection *and ours*.

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Christ Died

*corroborated by the
fact that*

He Was Buried

He Was Raised

*corroborated by the
fact that*

He Appeared



**There is an important symmetry
to the four points of the gospel.**

Reflections on the Gospel

**Christ's Was
Raised**

**We Will Be
Also**



**1 Corinthians
15.20-23**

Reflections on the Gospel

7. Christ's resurrection assures us that His expiation of sin succeeded.

It also calls us into present-day relationship with a living Lord .

Reflections on the Gospel

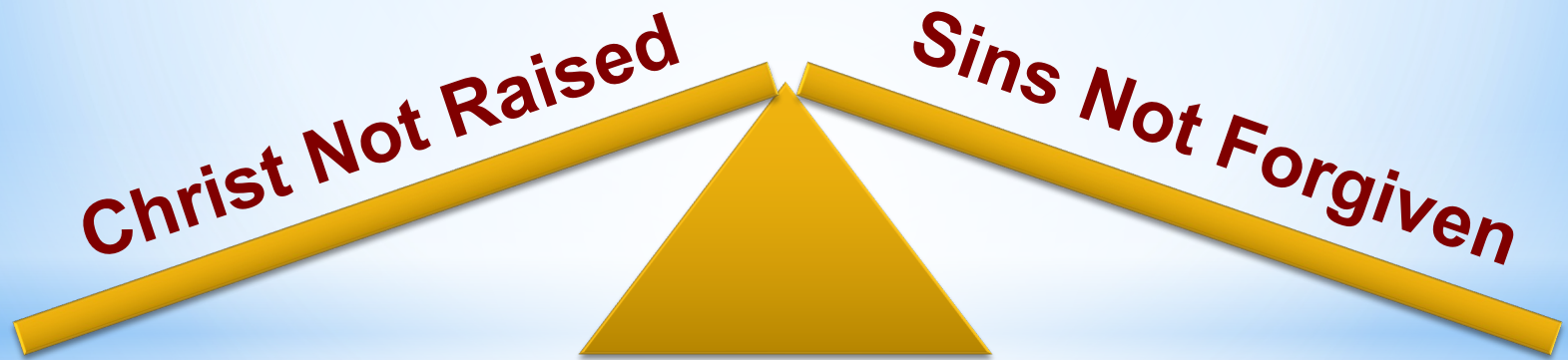
**Christ's
Expiation Of Sin
Successful**

**Death's Hold
On Christ
Impossible**



Acts 2.24

Reflections on the Gospel



**1 Corinthians
15.17**

Reflections on the Gospel



Contra John 14.23

Reflections on the Gospel

**Christ
Raised**

**Present
Relationship With
Him Is Necessary**



Revelation 3.20

Reflections on the Gospel

8. The three days in the tomb confirm *the reality* of Christ's death and resurrection.

If we forget that Christ was not raised *until the third day*, we're apt to entertain doubts about His death.

Reflections on the Gospel

9. The witnesses to Christ's resurrection make Christianity an evidence-based and intelligent faith.

If we deemphasize the witnesses to the resurrection, we make Christianity sound like a matter of “blind faith.”

Reflections on the Gospel

10. The more precise our gospel, the more authentic our disciples.

The more fully people understand what they're "signing up for," the more loyal they are to their commitment.

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