

FMBC BIBLE STUDY

August 19, 2026

Pastor Carlos D. Williams

Sermon: Get A Grip on God's Word

The Call to Every Believer

We must be deeply devoted to doctrine to be **faithful developers** and **faithful defenders** of the faith.

Scripturally Sound

Know what you believe and why you believe it.

Doctrinally Deep

Rooted in the teachings of Scripture – not swayed by every new wind.

Textually Tight

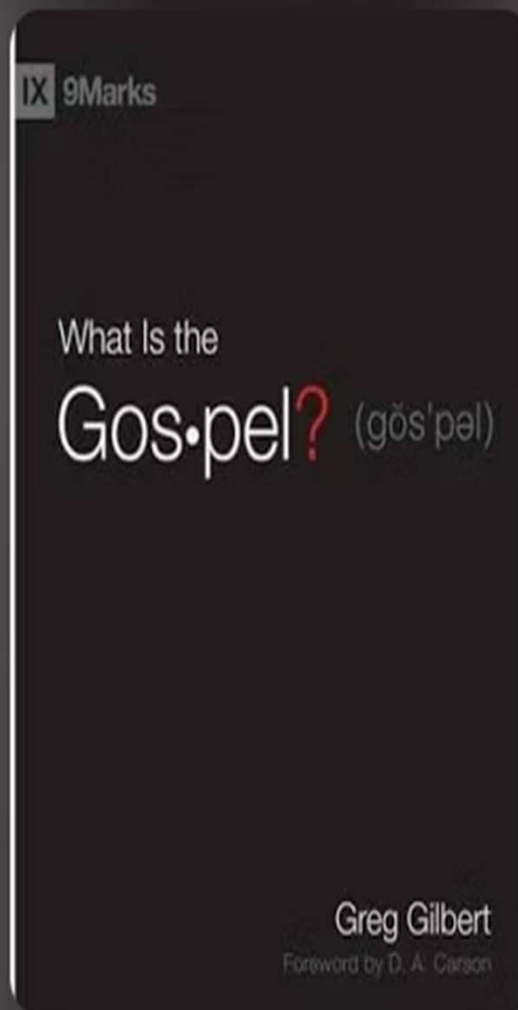
Able to effectively articulate and communicate what you believe. (2 Timothy 2:15)

What Is the Gospel?

An introduction to Greg Gilbert's essential guide to the heart of Christian faith — a concise, clarifying, and transformative exploration of the most important question a person can ask.

[Explore the Book](#)

[Learn More](#)



1 Corinthians 15:1-4 English Standard Version

15 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 English Standard Version

15 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, **if you hold fast to the word I preached to you**— **unless you believed in vain**. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**, 4 **that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures**,

Why This Book Matters

The word "gospel" is everywhere in Christian culture — yet its meaning is increasingly blurred. Many churches preach a version stripped of its most essential elements, leaving people with comfort but not salvation.

The Problem

A diluted gospel offers comfort without salvation.

The Stakes

Getting the gospel wrong means people may never truly hear the good news.

The Need

Gilbert calls us back to biblical precision and personal conviction.

Who Is Greg Gilbert?

Greg Gilbert is a pastor, theologian, and author known for his accessible yet rigorous approach to biblical doctrine. He serves as Senior Pastor of Third Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky — trained at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, writing at the intersection of pastoral care and theological precision.

Defining the Gospel

More than a slogan or a feeling — the gospel is a **specific historical announcement** with content that must be understood, believed, and proclaimed.

Not Just "Good News"

The Greek *euangelion* means good news — but the content matters enormously.

A Defined Message

The gospel has a specific shape rooted in what God has done through Jesus Christ.

Not Negotiable

Altering the gospel — even with good intentions — produces a different message entirely.

The Four Core Questions

Gilbert organizes the gospel around four foundational questions drawn from Romans — forming a complete account of why we need the gospel and what it offers.

1

God

Who is the God to whom we are accountable?

2

Man

What is the human condition before a holy God?

3

Christ

What has Jesus done to bridge the gap?

4

Response

How must a person respond to be saved?

God's Holiness & Human Sinfulness

A Holy God

God is perfectly righteous and just — his character demands that wrongdoing be addressed.

Humanity's Rebellion

Every person has sinned — cosmic rebellion with eternal consequence.

The Verdict

Left on our own, we stand guilty before God. The wages of sin is death — both physical and spiritual separation from the Creator. The gospel only makes sense against this backdrop.

The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

Jesus is not merely a moral example. He is the **center and substance** of the gospel itself.



The Incarnation

God became man in Jesus — fully divine, fully human — uniquely qualified to stand between a holy God and sinful humanity.



The Atonement

On the cross, Jesus bore the penalty of sin in our place — a substitutionary sacrifice that satisfies God's justice.



The Resurrection

The resurrection vindicates Christ's identity and victory — proof that death is defeated and new life is truly available.

HOW WE RESPOND

Faith & Repentance

Faith

Entrusting yourself wholly to Christ — not merely intellectual agreement, but personal reliance on him for salvation.

Repentance

A genuine change of direction away from sin and self-rule, and toward God.

- Both faith and repentance are gifts of God's grace — not human achievements. Yet both are real and necessary for a saving response to the gospel.

Why Getting the Gospel Right Changes Everything



For the Individual

A clear gospel brings genuine assurance — you know why, who, and what you are saved from.



For the Church

A precise gospel produces transformed lives. Vague gospels produce shallow disciples.



For the World

The world doesn't need a softer gospel — the true gospel is the only power of God for salvation.

Key Takeaways

01

Know the Gospel's Content

God, Man, Christ, Response — internalize this framework as the backbone of your faith and witness.

03

Read the Book

What Is the Gospel? is only 120 pages — compact, accessible, and ideal for individuals, small groups, and new believers.

02

Examine What You Believe

Is the gospel you hold to the one the Bible actually teaches? Gilbert invites every reader to this courageous self-examination.

04

Proclaim It Clearly

Let the gospel shape your conversations, prayers, and community life every day.

"The gospel is
not just the
ABCs of
Christianity — it
is the A to Z." —
Greg Gilbert

