

THE GOSPEL

This is our Good News: that our God reigns.

The Gospel means that your salvation is not dependent on your own behavior. This means that perfection is not your goal, it's not your god, it's not your standard for a life well lived. Your identity and worth are found in being God's child—the child He so loved that He gave His only Son as a ransom for your sins.

The Gospel means that nothing you've done, and nothing that has been done to you can ever separate you from God's love for you, or ever change the way God feels about you.

The Gospel means that no matter what labels the world has put on you, and no matter what labels you've put on yourself, God, the only perfect Judge, has issued His final verdict on you, and His verdict is: *not* guilty.

The Good News is that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live within us, to point us towards Jesus, to empower us for living in a manner worthy of the Gospel, to transform us, to make us more like Jesus, and to comfort us.

The Gospel means that we are never alone, never abandoned, never forsaken, never tossed to the side, never forgotten. We are chosen, seen, known, loved and cherished by the King of Kings, and our God reigns.

The Gospel means that we have a Savior. We don't have to rescue ourselves. We can't rescue ourselves, but Jesus can, and He does. And this Savior responds and rescues every single time we cry out for His help.

The Gospel shows us that even when Jesus was in the tomb for three days and the disciples wondered if their faith had been in vain, Jesus still rose from the grave. This tells us that just because your season feels dark right now doesn't mean that your life is over. Just because there's no sign of life doesn't mean that there's no reason for hope, and even when life itself feels like one long Good Friday of the soul, God promised that He will not leave you in the grave. Everytime something dies, resurrection is just around the corner.

The Gospel tells us that healing is our birthright as children of God, and healing may come through process, it may come through relationship, it may come through counseling, it may come through prayer, it may come through the miraculous, it may come through medicine, or it may come in heaven, but healing *a/ways* happens.

The Gospel means that God has a better plan for our lives than we could ever plan for our lives. The Gospel means that nothing in our lives is too far gone for God's redemption.

Lastly, the Gospel means that we do not have to entertain the enemy's questions of, "Did God really say?", because *yes*, God *did* say, and God will not change His mind about us, and God will always come through.

That is our Gospel: that our God reigns, and that the enemy is under His feet.