

What is The Gospel?

Part II – The Faithfulness of God

October 2016



Recap: Fifty Shades of Grace

Our gospel has been clumsy

- ◆ God seems angry and distant
- ◆ Too black & white & focussed on afterlife
- ◆ No place for the Spirit
- ◆ Only part of the story



Recap: The good news is...

- ◆ God is near!
- ◆ Judgement is not black & white
- ◆ God wanted children
- ◆ You were destined for glory!



For Paul it is one story...

- It begins with Abraham – Galatians 3:8

- God promises to bless the whole world!

- We are like Abraham

- Justified by faith – 15:6
- Not perfect – Ishmael, etc
- Didn't see all God's promises fulfilled



**Good News for
me & you!**

Towards understanding the gospel...



- ◆ Jesus didn't bring a new gospel! John 3:16-17
- ◆ We see God's faithfulness by the end of Genesis
 - ◆ Descent through distrust
 - ◆ Salvation through trust
- ◆ We fall short through mistrust – Romans 3:23

The Good News is...

- ◆ God is good
- ◆ God is for us
- ◆ God is involved
- ◆ God is faithful to His promises to bless the whole world!

N.T. Wright

- ◆ “It isn’t that God basically wants to condemn and then finds a way to rescue some from that disaster. It is that God longs to bless, to bless lavishly, and so to rescue and bless those in danger of tragedy—and therefore must curse everything that thwarts and destroys the blessing of his world and his people.”

N.T. Wright, *Justification: God's Plan & Paul's Vision*

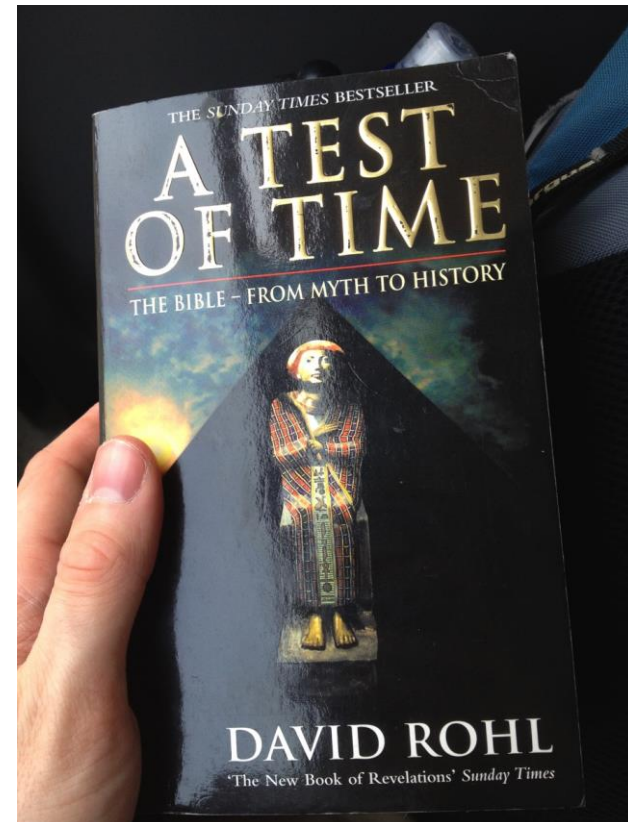
An aside on trust...

(Trust is another word for faith or belief)



Why God isn't trusted?

- ◆ Suffering
 - ◆ How can God be good?
- ◆ Sin
- ◆ Science
 - ◆ Geology
 - ◆ Palaeontology
 - ◆ Archaeology
- ◆ Death



How is trust increased?



- ◆ Hearing stories of blessing
- ◆ Seeking leads to revelation
- ◆ Experience!
- ◆ Receiving a blessing through an act of faith

...and back to the
gospel!

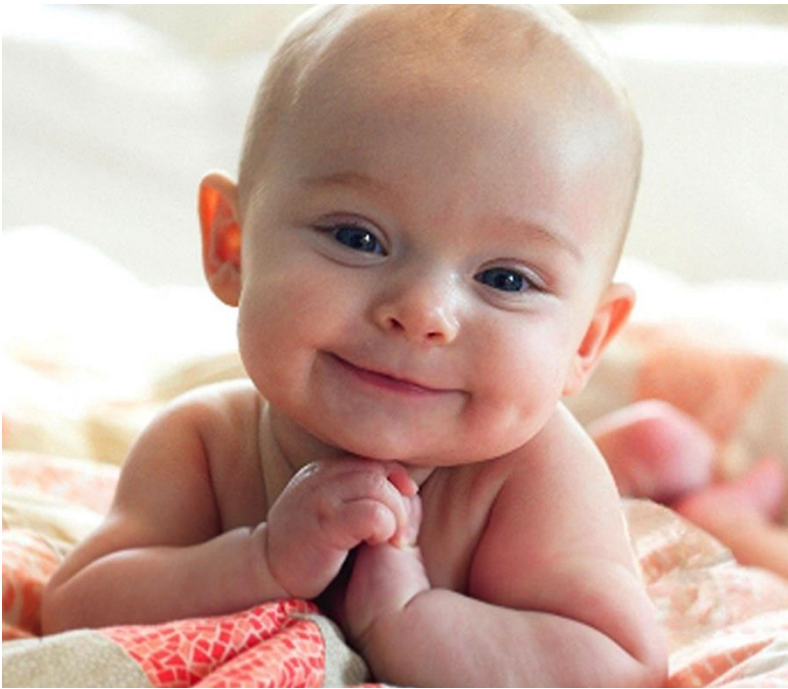


The gospel is powerful!

- ◆ Romans 1:16
- ◆ Trust leads to
 - ◆ Living without fear
 - ◆ Living for more than pleasure
 - ◆ Living & loving
- ◆ Results in salvation!



Summarizing the gospel – 1



- ◆ Beginning before creation
- ◆ Ephesians 1:4-5
- ◆ God wants children!
- ◆ We were made to bear His glory

Summarizing the gospel – 2

- ◆ We chose independence
- ◆ Adam & Eve mistrusted God
- ◆ We tried on our own
- ◆ Resulting in
 - ◆ More pain
 - ◆ Fruitlessness
 - ◆ Slavery



Summarizing the gospel – 3



Jesus reconciles us (helps us trust God) by

- ◆ Revealing Father
- ◆ Revealing a better life
 - ◆ A life of blessing
 - ◆ Better than sin
- ◆ Defeating death

Summarizing the gospel – 4

When we choose to trust God

- ◆ We become His child
- ◆ He gives us His Spirit
- ◆ We represent Him
- ◆ We save the world!



A good summary of the gospel

1. God wants us all as children
2. We chose independence
3. Jesus reconciles us back to the Father
4. We can choose to be His child and be filled with His Spirit
5. We are empowered by the Spirit to work with God to save the world