

How the Gospel Fits

Message Study Notes for 13 June 2021

Christianity maintains that Jesus holds a unique answer to the world's problems. **Do you agree? In what way?**

This message maintains that one way to sum up the gospel is under four headings:

1. In Jesus, God came to show us his love.

If so, how different is the love Jesus showed us from the love we normally see? Read Romans 5 verse 8.

We said that the way to love God properly is to love others as yourself.

Why is this the best way to love God?

2. In Jesus, God came to save us from sin, so that we can have an intimate relationship with him.

Why can't we deal with our own sin? And why would it stop a close relationship with God?

The old system of simply trying to follow rules to draw close to God never worked. We never live up to God's standards. **Why?**

3. In Jesus, God came to set up his kingdom of peace.

Do you agree that people, without God, are naturally self-centred and violent? Why?

Even so, religious extremists can use God to enhance their own violence.

Why should following Jesus make a difference, if any?

4. In Jesus, God came to shut down religion.

We said that religion (as a system of making yourself worthy of God by your own efforts) can increase narcissism, division and destruction.

Why might this happen?

Read Ephesians 2 verses 1 to 10.

The Christian message is that grace and belief come first. Then we do good works in grateful response. Some people seem to get this the wrong way round. **Why?**

How can understanding God's grace and love towards us help us to love others (to create goodness)?