The Big Picture of the Bible

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INTRODUCTION

- The Bible is one of the most popular yet most misunderstood books in all the world.
- 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament, 27 from the New, written over a period of about 1,500 years, and there's 40 different authors, holy men who are moved by the Holy Spirit.
- We learn in 2 Timothy 3, 16 and 17 that all scripture is inspired or God breathed.

1 Believe the Gospel, Obey It, Don't Change It

2 Thessalonians 1:7–9; 1 Corinthians 15:1–2; Galatians 1:6–9

- Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15, 1 and 2, that the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, a series of facts.
- So we want to make sure that we understand what this gospel is, that we believe it, that we obey it, and we don't change it at all.

2 The Old Law: A Tutor to Bring Us to Christ

Galatians 3:24; Ephesians 1:3–4; Leviticus 20:26

- Paul says that the old law is designed to be a tutor or a teacher or a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.
- He chose in advance, if they chose to sin, that he would not abandon us, but he would provide us a way back.
- But the thing that overrules all of this, what governs God's character is his holiness.
- God's holiness is demonstrated by both his justice and his love toward his creation.

3 Sin Separates Us: The Wages of Sin Is Death

Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:22

- Your iniquities have separated you from your God and your sins have hidden his face from you.
- And now our sin separated us from God, and God is holy, and in him is no darkness at all, and so he has to turn his face away from us.
- Ultimately, all sin, if it's going to be paid for, it has to be paid for with someone's life.
- God's justice demands death as payment for sin.

4 God's Love: Mercy, Grace, and Atonement

Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 11:6

- Mercy is where you don't get what you deserve.

- For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I've given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls.
- So faithful obedience is what makes this work in the Old Testament system.
- It's not an either or. The correct answer is you're saved by a faith that works.

5 Behold the Lamb of God

Matthew 5:17; Ezekiel 18:20; Colossians 1:22

- Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.
- He was pierced through for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities.
- All of the sacrificial system of the Old Testament is ultimately fulfilled in Christ.
- It wasn't the nails that held him to the cross, it was his love. It was his own free choice.

6 Who Really Died? Baptized Into His Death

Romans 6:3–6; Ephesians 4:4–6; Acts 2:38

- Don't you know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death.
- And that's what baptism is: it's a form of doctrine. It's by faith participating in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. And that's how we obey the gospel.
- Repent each of you and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you'll receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Baptism is not the gospel, it's just the gospel response.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **So the question is, are you ready to die with Christ? Will you accept his gospel?**

MY NOTES