

What is the Gospel?

Dr. R.C. Sproul | taken from ligonier.org/blog/what-is-the-gospel

There is no greater message to be heard than that which we call the gospel. But as important as that is, it is often given to massive distortions or over simplifications. People think they're preaching the gospel to you when they tell you, 'you can have a purpose to your life', or that 'you can have meaning to your life', or that 'you can have a personal relationship with Jesus.' All of those things are true, and they're all important, but they don't get to the heart of the gospel.

The gospel is called the 'good news' because it addresses the most serious problem that you and I have as human beings, and that problem is simply this: God is holy and He is just, and I'm not. And at the end of my life, I'm going to stand before a just and holy God, and I'll be judged. And I'll be judged either on the basis of my own righteousness—or lack of it—or the righteousness of another. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus lived a life of perfect righteousness, of perfect obedience to God, not for His own well being but for His people. He has done for me what I couldn't possibly do for myself. But not only has He lived that life of perfect obedience, He offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice to satisfy the justice and the righteousness of God.

The great misconception in our day is this: that God isn't concerned to protect His own integrity. He's a kind of wishy-washy deity, who just waves a wand of forgiveness over everybody. No. For God to forgive you is a very costly matter. It cost the sacrifice of His own Son. So valuable was that sacrifice that God pronounced it valuable by raising Him from the dead—so that Christ died for us, He was raised for our justification. So the gospel is something objective. It is the message of who Jesus is and what He did. And it also has a subjective dimension. How are the benefits of Jesus subjectively appropriated to us? How do I get it? The Bible makes it clear that we are justified not by our works, not by our efforts, not by our deeds, but by faith—and by faith alone. The only way you can receive the benefit of Christ's life and death is by putting your trust in Him and in Him alone. You do that, you're declared just by God, you're adopted into His family, you're forgiven of all of your sins, and you have begun your pilgrimage for eternity.

Announcements

- Prayer Meeting this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the church.
- To volunteer with physical projects, please contact the church at info@antiochpca.com.

Vision

Our vision is to see the historic Antioch Presbyterian Church revitalized as a worshipping community to be a blessing to every man, woman, and child in the growing residential hub west of Woodruff and south of Reidville, to the glory of God.

Mission

Our mission as a parish church at the crossroads of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties is the gathering and perfecting of God's people through biblical worship, evangelism, and pastoral care.

Areas of Ministry Focus

Expository Preaching
Biblical Worship
Parish Evangelism
Pastoral Care
Discipleship

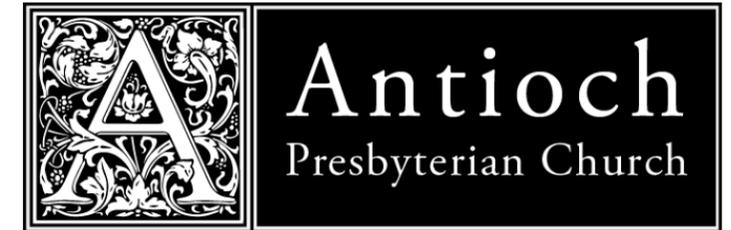
Leadership & Accountability

As a *mission work*, Antioch Presbyterian Church (PCA) is governed and overseen by a *provisional session* of elders serving as a *commission* of Calvary Presbytery. The six men appointed to the *provisional session* are active elders within the bounds of Calvary Presbytery, and they have graciously agreed to serve "above-and-beyond" to encourage the revitalization of Antioch. They include:

Dr. Chipley Bennett, Ph.D. – Ruling Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church
Dr. E. Todd Buchner, D.Min. – Pastor, Reidville Presbyterian Church
Mr. Richard Hollifield – Ruling Elder, Roebuck Presbyterian Church
Mr. William Johnson – Ruling Elder, Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr., Ph.D., D.D. – Professor of Systematic & Applied Theology, President Emeritus, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church
Pastor Richard Thomas – Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary Presbyterian Church; Clerk of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church

Church Staff

Mr. Zachary Groff – Ministerial Assistant
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr. – Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session
Mr. Johann Xie – Ministerial Intern



The Lord's Day
February 21, 2021

“The Mystery of the Incarnation”

1 Timothy 3:16

Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr.

Worship – Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

3600 SC-417 | Woodruff, SC 29388

864.519.3604 | info@antiochpca.com | antiochpca.com

The Lord's Day

February 21, 2021

Meditation

Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

*Call to Worship

*Congregational Commitment

Minister: Congregation, in whom is your confidence?

Congregation: Our help is in the Name of the Lord, Who made the heavens and the earth.

*Salutation

*Hymn of Adoration

No. 209

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright
WINCHESTER NEW

*Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

*Revelation of God's Will

Exodus 20:1-17

*Confession of Sin & Supplication for Grace

Holy Lord, we have sinned times without number. We have been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find Your mind in Your Word, and of neglect to seek You in our daily lives. Our transgressions and shortcomings present us with a list of accusations, but we bless You that they will not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ. Subdue our corruptions and grant us grace to live above them. Let neither the passions of the flesh nor the lusts of the mind bring our spirits into subjection, but rather set Christ to rule over us in liberty and power. No trial is so hard to bear as a sense of sin. If You should give us a choice to live in pleasure and keep our sins, or to have them burnt away with trial, give us sanctified affliction. Deliver us from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of Your grace in us, everything that prevents our taking delight in You. Then we shall bless You, God of our righteousness, for helping us to be upright. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

John 10:27-29

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Offering

No. 343

What Wondrous Love is This
WONDROUS LOVE

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Supplication

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation

No. 119P

I Have Followed Truth and Justice
ROBINSON

*Prayer for Illumination

*Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:1-16

*New Testament Reading

Philippians 2:1-11

*Congregational Response

Leader: The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord,
Congregation: As the waters cover the sea!

Sermon

"The Mystery of the Incarnation"
1 Timothy 3:16

Prayer of Application

*Hymn of Response

No. 324

Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor
QUELLE CETTE ODEUR AGRÉABLE

*Benediction

*Doxology

No. 567

Doxology
OLD HUNDREDTH

"The Mystery of the Incarnation"

1 Timothy 3:16

Main Proposition

The church is to proclaim the glorious mystery of the exalted, incarnate Christ.

Outline

- I. The Mystery of the Incarnation
- II. The Message of the Incarnation

*Congregation standing, unless physically hindered