

## What is the Gospel?

Dr. R.C. Sproul | taken from [ligonier.org/blog/what-is-the-gospel](http://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](mailto: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*

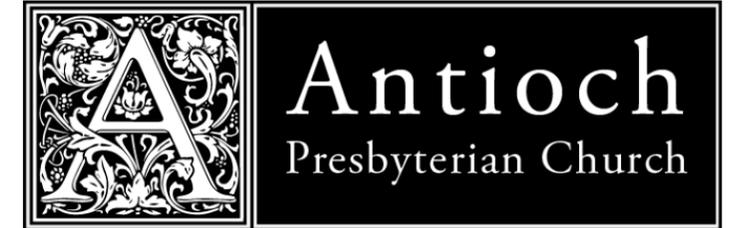
### Leadership & Accountability

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  
April 11, 2021

"Strengthening the Church"  
*Revelation 3:7-13*  
Mr. Zachary Groff

Worship – Sunday, 5:00 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

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# The Lord's Day

April 11, 2021

“Strengthening the Church”

Revelation 3:7-13

## Silent Meditation

Nehemiah 8:10

*Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”*

## \*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. 92A

*It's Good to Thank the LORD*  
DARWALL

## \*Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

## \*Revelation of God's Will

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

## \*Confession of Sin & Supplication for Grace

Almighty Father, You are the source of every good and perfect gift. We praise Your Name for the greatest and most perfect Gift: Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. But in lifting Him up, we humble ourselves before You. We confess to You, not only our sins of omission in failing to do what we know is right, but also our sins of commission in doing what You forbid. Oh Lord, we are weak and feeble, slow to confess our sins and prone to wander from the path of righteousness. Do not deal with us as our sins deserve but wash us clean in the blood of the Lamb and empower us by Your Spirit to live to honor and to serve our Savior King. We praise You that He was born like us that we might become like Him.

## \*Assurance of Pardon

Luke 1:68, 69; Matthew 1:21

<sup>68</sup> Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people. <sup>69</sup> And He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant.

<sup>21</sup> You shall call His Name Jesus, for it is He Who will save His people from their sins.

## Offering

No. 339

*Hark! the Voice of Love and Mercy*  
BRYN CALFARIA

## \*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. 392

*Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness*  
GENEVAN 42 (THIRSTING)

## \*Prayer for Illumination

## \*Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-18

## \*New Testament Reading

Revelation 3:7-13

## \*Congregational Response

**Leader: Man shall not live on bread alone,**

Congregation: But on every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God!

## Sermon

“Strengthening the Church”  
Revelation 3:7-13

## Prayer of Application

## \*Hymn of Response

No. 46B

*God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength*  
NOEL

## \*Benediction

## \*Doxology

No. 150C

*Sing Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!*  
(stanza 1)  
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Sing hallelujah! Praise the LORD!  
Praise God within His sacred courts!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Praise, praise Him in His heav'nly height!  
Praise, praise Him for His deeds of might!  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

## \*Silent Prayer

\*Congregation standing, unless physically hindered

## Main Proposition

Christ the Holy One promises to strengthen His church against temptation so that we shall dwell with Him for eternity.

## Outline

- I. Christ's Holiness (v. 7)
- II. Christ's Promise to His Church (vv. 8-11)
- III. The Christian's Eternal Dwelling Place (vv. 12, 13)