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An Outline of the Basic Gospel Message

Calvin Symposium on Worship

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An Outline of the Basic Gospel Message

1 Corinthians 1:23 "We preach Christ crucified."

SIN

Concept #1 Sin: As a result of the fall, man is sinful and doesn't measure up.

God has a problem with me because I do not measure up to His perfect standard. I have repeatedly broken the law – committing crimes against Him and others in my thoughts, words, and deeds. I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor.

Concept #2 God's Nature: God is righteous and just, which results in my punishment, namely death

God is righteous and perfect and cannot accept me the way I am.

God is just and must punish every sin I have committed or will commit.

The punishment is death -- the eternal punishment of body and soul.

Concept #3 Good works won't work

There is nothing I can do to make myself acceptable to God no matter how hard I try or how religious I become. Actually, I increase my guilt every day.

SALVATION

Concept #1 God's nature: God is loving and merciful, so He provided a substitute.

God is also loving and merciful, and in His love He provided a substitute, someone to take the punishment for me. No other creature could do the job and therefore God the Father sent God the Son to be this substitute.

Concept #2 Christ's nature: The perfect substitute.

1. Truly human and truly righteous: Human nature, which has sinned must pay for its sin; but a sinner could never pay for others.
2. True God: Only by the power of His divinity could Christ bear the weight of God's anger.

Concept #3 Christ's work – Death and Resurrection

God put my sins on Jesus and punished Him in my place at the cross. Jesus died and was buried. On the third day he rose from the dead, proving that my two enemies -- sin and death -- have been completely overcome, and guaranteeing my glorious resurrection.

SERVICE

Concept #1 The invitation: Genuine Repentance and Conversion: Dying-away of the old self and the coming-to-life of the new

Jesus offers forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life with Himself to those who through the Spirit's work and by true faith trust in Him to save them **FROM** sin and eternal condemnation **TO** a new life lived with and for Him.

Concept #2 A New Mission: Saved to Do Good Works

Christ's by His Spirit is renewing me to be like Himself so that:

- a. By my living I show that I am thankful to God and praise Him
- b. By good works, I am assured of my faith by its fruits
- c. So that others may be won over to Christ.