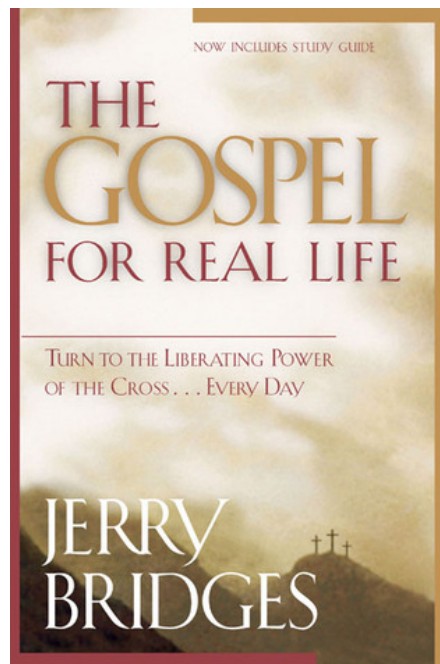




The Gospel for Real Life: Turn to the Liberating Power of the Cross... Every Day

Jerry Bridges , Jonathan L. Graf

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The gospel provides for our eternal salvation, but how does it benefit us day to day? Find out from author Jerry Bridges how the gospel sets you free from sin's defeat and daily transforms you into Christlikeness.

Includes study guide.

The Gospel for Real Life: Turn to the Liberating Power of the Cross... Every Day Details

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From Reader Review The Gospel for Real Life: Turn to the Liberating Power of the Cross... Every Day for online ebook

Emma Davison says

Read this for Sunday school, and am currently reading it for Navigators. It's is such a wonderful book to read and discuss

Justin Heck says

An excellent, clear understanding of the gospel and how it affects my life. This book makes me want to read other books by Bridges.

Pete says

Bridges did such a great job of reminding us to remind ourselves of the Gospel daily. A great encouragement that all your debt has been nailed to the cross and this described in so many clear ways.

Brian Pate says

All Bridges does for 172 pages is explain the gospel — and it's a slam dunk! This book is a crash course in Soteriology. The gospel begins with the bad news: we are sinners and God is angry at our sin (ch. 2). The rest of the book spells out the good news. By Christ's death on the cross and active righteousness (ch. 3), God's justice is satisfied (ch. 4). This provides propitiation (ch. 5), expiation (ch. 6), and redemption (ch. 7) for those who are justified (chs. 9-10) by faith (ch. 11). Christians enjoy adoption (ch. 12), assurance (ch. 13), glorification (ch. 14), and ongoing sanctification (ch. 15). Such good news should make us tell the world (ch. 16)!

Helpful thoughts:

- Preach the gospel to yourself every day (p. 11).
- Helpful treatment of Adam and Christ as our representatives (p. 37).
- Great treatment of the two goats on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16). The sacrificed goat represents the propitiation of God's wrath. The goat that is sent away represents the expiation of our sins (pp. 58, 67).

This book is an overwhelmingly encouraging reminder of the truths of the gospel. It motivated me to worship and witness. I should live each day with more humility and more joy because of my current position with God (made possible by the righteousness of Christ).

Great quote: "The gospel believed every day is the only enduring motivation to pursue progressive sanctification" (p. 164).

Mary Ann says

This is the perfect book for getting a clear understanding of the Gospel. It explains in great detail the meaning of what Jesus did on the cross... why He died, what He accomplished, and why we need to accept what He did for us. The author states "We cannot begin to understand the true significance of the cross unless we understand something of the holiness of God and the depth of our sin." After reading this book, you will have a greater knowledge of God and His holiness along with the realization that "We bring nothing to our salvation except our sin that made it necessary."

Only one chapter I had a trouble with... the chapter on Faith. And he even points out that you may disagree. He says faith is a GIFT from God and that God makes us spiritually 'alive'... so that we may then believe. Sounds like predestination to me... not free will. He explains his belief of this in great detail and yet I still don't agree. I'm sure I will look into it further. That being said, it is only one chapter that I take issue with and it by no means takes away from the mass of great information in this book. You may agree with his view on the subject.

This book was very well written. I began to underline the parts that I wanted to remember or even quote in my review... but there were so many good points, I would have underlined or shared most of the book!

Jesus said to go and preach the Gospel. But how many of us have a full understanding of the Gospel ourselves? I thought I knew until the question was put directly to me and I realized how difficult it was to share with someone else. I began to ask myself "What is the Gospel? What do I tell people when they ask?" Then I set out on a quest to find out. I'm so glad I had the chance to read this book for review. If you want to share more than "Jesus, loves you", then you need to read this book! Plain and simple.

*I received this book free from NavPress Publishers as part of their Blogger Review Program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. ~Thanks NavPress! :)

Abbie Anicete says

Jerry Bridges, in authoring the book, "The Gospel for Real Life", have mapped out a believer's way in discovering the unsearchable riches of Christ---hidden for so many! This richness of the Gospel is all centered on what Jesus has done on our behalf, leaving nothing in our performance and anything on our own to merit our salvation. Receiving such powerful revelation of what the Gospel really is burns in our heart the desire to proclaim it to others and to the world.

Rachel says

This book was helpful for me as a woman who became a Christian at a young age and was then forever in Christian circles after that. It's easy to form the mindset that, because I am a Christian and have gone to church my whole life, I know all there is to know about the Gospel, namely Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection and what that means for me and others. But the Gospel isn't something that is stagnant or was intended to be believed once and then not ever revisited again. The Gospel transforms and, according to Bridges, should be revisited each and every day of a believers' life. Bridges book touches on each aspect of the Gospel - the state of human beings, the need for salvation, redemption, reconciliation, justice, grace, adoption, sanctification, glorification, the great commission, and I'm sure that I am leaving many other great

things out.

He uses many different real-life examples to help illustrate biblical ideas and concepts that might be harder to grasp (and still can be hard to grasp because of the fact that people have finite minds) if not explained in an applicable way. He brings in a lot of Scripture throughout the chapters, which is absolutely necessary in any book regarding the Bible since what he states is not based on his own authority but on God's true words. Also, he provides study questions for every two chapters that can be used for book studies, which is what I have used it for.

I have been blessed by many of the truths shared in Bridges' book as well as the opportunities I have been given to discuss the Gospel on deeper and more meaningful levels. Bridges does a great job of asking simple yet thought-provoking questions that get a person thinking about what the Gospel truly means objectively and then how it's objectivity can relate to them subjectively.

Cindy Navarro says

We know that the gospel provides the news we share with others about salvation, but is that all there is to it? Do we need to read it on a daily basis, or is that part complete once we pray to accept Jesus as our Savior? Navigator author, Jerry Bridges, explores this issue in his book, *The Gospel For Real Life*. The gospel is to be used to transform you daily into the image of Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:18 is the verse that came to my mind, and is used in the Study Guide provided in the book. The best way to learn the character of anyone is to study them, and Mr. Bridges reinforces this throughout the pages of this book.

Although this book is not meant strictly for new believers, it is a good source for for those who are at the, "I'm now a Christian. What next?" phase. It is an excellent overview and explanation on such topics as assurance of salvation, Jesus as the scapegoat for our sins, and other things that may confuse those who were not raised in the church environment. I wish I had had a better understanding of many of these things when I first became a Christian. So, while I did not think the book truly covered the "liberating power of the cross", I would not hesitate to recommend it to others who want a deeper understanding of a daily walk with Christ. The Study Guide included is also a great benefit whether studying alone or with others.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from NavPress Publishers as part of their Blogger Review Program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Reid says

This book is a common man's theological and practical guide to living the Christian life. By reading and re-reading the contents and replaying these Biblical principles in my head, my hard heart can become more soft toward God and people.

I do like the repetition and summary after summary of the Biblical concepts.

I recommend this book.

Bridges answers the questions

- What is the Gospel we should preach to ourselves, everyday?
- Why do WE, WHO ARE ALREADY BELIEVERS, need to preach it to ourselves?
- How do we do it?

1. Begin each day with "I am accepted by God based ONLY on the infinitely perfect righteousness of Jesus."

- we can't begin to see the GOOD news unless we see our DEEP need, every day
- the Gospel is the solution to our greatest problem - our guilt, our condemnation, and alienation from God
- seeing our deep spiritual need and the unsearchable riches in Christ to meet this need is the answer

2. The Cross is essential because "our sins are higher than our heads" Ezra 9:6

- the Cross satisfies His justifiable wrath against our sin
- the Cross is His love toward us
- He suffered what we should have suffered

Why the Cross??

- God's holiness demanded it as punishment for our sins
- God's love provided it to save us from our sins

3. Jesus' entire life was one of suffering obedience and obedient suffering; He assumed OUR obligation and liability, obeying and suffering in OUR place, as our representative and our substitute.

4. Justice - getting exactly what one deserves which is met fully and completely in the cross of Christ; because Jesus is my Savior, I can say, "God's justice toward me is fully and completely satisfied."

- Only God's infinite wisdom and superabundant love could devise such a plan that both satisfies His justice and meets my desperate need for mercy.

5. The cup of God's holy wrath (His righteous anger at our sin), was fully exhausted in the death of Christ on the cross.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Isaiah 53:4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Result: great humility and gratitude in us:

HUMILITY that we were the cause of our Savior's unimaginable suffering and

GRATITUDE that He so willingly and lovingly experienced God's wrath that we might not suffer it ourselves.

6. Propitiation addresses the wrath of God being exhausted and expiation addresses the work of Christ in removing and putting away our sin (ex- the scapegoat)

7. God demanded the ransom price, because of His holy wrath required it, and He paid it in the death of His son. It was God's justice that Jesus satisfied.

8. Reconciliation assumes a previous state of alienation and hostility caused by the offensive actions of one or both parties.

- Even though God is the One offended by our sin, He is the One who makes amends to Himself through the death of Christ: 2 Corinthians 5:19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

- we bring nothing to our salvation except the sin that caused it

9. Right standing with God is ONLY based on the imputed righteousness of Christ, our "robe of righteousness".

- God treated Christ as we deserved to be treated so that He might treat us as Christ deserved to be treated.
FAITH: renouncing and trust in our own good works and relying entirely on the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ.

10. Paul's 'garbage righteousness' (good works that he thought would increase his standing before God and his esteem before men) was exchanged for Christ's perfect righteousness which motivated his life of service.
- there is a direct correlation between faith in the righteousness of Christ and zeal in the cause of Christ. The more a person counts as loss his own righteousness and lays hold by faith of the righteousness of Christ, the more he will be motivated to live and work for Christ.

11. Faith is the gift of God, even though we were spiritually dead and totally gripped by worldly anti-god culture which was under the dominion of Satan and slaves to our own sinful nature.

12. We are children of God NOT children of wrath; we are adopted, with full rights: His provision, protection, encouragement, comfort, discipline.

13. We can have confident assurance of eternal life from 1) the promises of the Bible, 2) the witness of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and 3) the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

14. Our Glorious Present - we are children of God
Our Glorious Future - we will be like Him, which is His ultimate purpose for us

15. If we are to be holy, we must get to the cross and stay there

16. The urgency of great commission comes by understanding that God always wanted to bless others by first blessing His people: that they trust in Christ and come under His full reign.

- this begins by us praying

- 'going', and/or

- providing the finances so others go and spread the good news

Comment: to live with a daily sense of the Gospel, gives me peace / love toward God, myself, and others

Brian says

Bridges' primary objectives in this work is to dispel erroneous views of the gospel and to articulate what is the pure gospel. The widely held, but erroneous, understanding of the gospel is what Bridges' calls, "a truncated view of the gospel." This is the view that the gospel is "a door we walk through to become a Christian." In other words, this view says, "the gospel is only for unbelievers." Another unbiblical view of the gospel sees the gospel as what it can do for me. It is the "fire insurance" that protects me from eternal flames and promises me joy in this world. Bridges dubs this the "utilitarian view" of the gospel. Bridges sums up these views:

"We fail to see the gospel as the solution to our greatest problem--our guilt, condemnation, and alienation from God. Beyond that, we fail to see it as the basis of our day-to-day acceptance with Him." (15)

In the following chapters, Bridges presents the gospel in its glory as expounded in the Scriptures: man's totally depraved nature, the curse of sin, God's unmitigated wrath against sin and sinners, the cross, redemption, Christ, reconciliation, adoption, propitiation, sanctification, and glorification. Without plummeting too deep in theological turf, Bridges strikes a fine balance of communicating the essence of theological truth.

The gospel is, then, the power of God to salvation. The gospel is not about man. It's not just a good alternative or the best option out there of many choices. The gospel is about God and His glory. I appreciate this following statement for its biblical focus:

"This Godward focus of Christ's atoning work tells us that it is the integrity of God's moral government and the upholding of His honor and glory that is the primary issue in our salvation. It is true that it is the love of God for sinful people such as you and men that is the wellspring of our salvation, but it is also true that his love could only be shown in such a way that the glory of His holiness and the honor of His Law would be magnified." (89)

An excellent read and a great book to use for Bible studies.

Scott Norris says

It took me forever to finish this short book. I love Jerry Bridges' work, but this one just was hard to get through. It wasn't boring. It wasn't overly theological. I guess expectations are the key. I was expecting the book to be more applicable for "every day" life. It was mainly a succinct chapter by chapter explanation of the depth of the Gospel with two chapters in the end about how this can be put in your life everyday. Really just one chapter is "every day", and the second end-chapter is about where the Gospel will take you.

I think this book would be excellent for a new believer!

Bambi Moore says

My husband read this aloud to us in family time over the last couple months. It's good and in typical Jerry Bridges' style, easy to understand. We benefited from it for sure, it's just not my favorite of his books. The chapter on assurance of salvation was my favorite.

Jacob Aitken says

I bought this book after someone recommended Jerry Bridges to me. I found this book a very basic, easy to read guideline to Covenant theology, namely the aspect of Salvation and the Christian Life.

Bridges Encourages believers to embrace the reality of Christ's finished work on the Cross, understand the

meaning of reconciliation and Adoption by God, and no longer live with the knowledge and regret of past failure. Among the interesting points in the book is Bridge's interpretation of the word *propitiation* (which I fully agree, and believe it will satisfy the demands of modern, Reformed theologians). Chapters 5-9 contain the heart of the book as well as the heart of the Gospel. Bridges is able to take deep thought from modern and older reformers and put them into Everyman language.

Final Analysis: This book is basic. It contained no new truth, it just retold it in different terms (which is important). If you are familiar with the Catholic/Protestant debate over Sola Fide, then this book will not add anything new to the argument that both sides have not already heard. Try to find the book cheaper and it would well be a Sunday read which you could probably finish in a day. The book is aimed at those who are living their lives in quiet desperation. Only when we fully realize what Christ actually did on the cross will we ever truly live.

Natalie Vellacott says

I enjoy all Jerry Bridges' books and this was no exception. He had a great way of simplifying theology for the lay reader. This is not one of his best books: it is an overview of the Gospel message seeking to help readers to apply Gospel truths to their everyday lives. However, I found some of it a little repetitive and some of the examples he uses seem to be slightly off topic.

Bridges main focus in this book is to dispel the myths surrounding our relationship with God as believers. He wants Christians to understand that they really are justified by faith alone. He quotes Richard Lovelace:

Many Christians below the surface of their lives are guilt-ridden and insecure and draw the assurance of their acceptance with God from their sincerity, their past experience of conversion, their recent religious performance or the relative infrequency of their conscious, willful disobedience.

There are some great quotes addressing how God views us. These are things which are widely misunderstood in the church today. If we truly understand God's hatred of sin (and sinners) then it actually enhances the Gospel message and makes it more incredible that God chose to save us "whilst we were yet sinners."

When Paul described us as God's enemies, he was not at that point describing our sinful hatred of God but rather His righteous hatred of us because of our sin. Because of the sinful connotations we associate with human hatred, it is difficult for us to conceive of God's holy hatred towards people. But God's hatred is simply His just and holy revulsion and His holy antagonism toward those who rebel against Him. More important than His use of the word wrath, however, are His frequent references to hell as the ultimate, eternal expression of God's wrath. (Matthew 5 vs 22, 18 vs 9, Mark 9 vs 47, Luke 12 vs 5)

It is for this reason that:

We should never cease to be amazed that the One who established the Law and determined its curse should Himself ransom us from that curse by bearing it in our place.

I recommend this book which also has a study guide at the back. However, if you are new to Bridges then start with *Trusting God* or *Respectable Sins*. I'm about to also re-read *The Pursuit of Holiness* so that I can do a comprehensive review....

Uma says

1CThe Gospel for Real Life 1D by 18Jerry Bridges 19 from NavPress is a fantastic book on the subject of Gospel. The clarity with which the subject has been handled makes this book special. Jerry Bridges is an experienced Bible teacher and a member of the Navigator Collegiate Ministry Group. Initially Jerry claims that this book is not meant to be theological treatise but intends to be 18Gospel 101 19. However, I would say that 1CThe Gospel for Real Life 1D is a theological treatise in its own flair. The greatest attraction in this book has been the lucid writing style of Jerry. I finished this book in two sittings and thoroughly enjoyed reading the same. The message was absolutely unambiguous and easy to comprehend.

In a sense, this book is about the unsearchable riches of Christ. The significance of the cross, the pleasure of obedience, justice and reconciliation, the gift of God, sanctification and the right standing with God have been explained to the readers in a compelling way. More importantly, the book also contains eight weeks of bible study contents suitable for group study.

The content is uplifting and accurate to hit our senses; and they continue to evoke and flood out our hearts. Jerry has written this book in a non - jargony style without using any complex language. It makes even a young believer to absorb the incredible truths of the Gospel with ease. I believe that this book will be enjoyed by both new believers and mature and grown Christians alike.

I would give this one five out of five stars.

Please note that I received this book from NavPress Publishers through its book review bloggers program in exchange for an honest review. Also be informed that the opinions I have expressed are my own. I was not required to write a positive review.
