

# What are the essential elements of the gospel?

## The Final Four (from: 9 Marks.org)

Whenever we talk about the gospel, it is helpful and important to remember the four essentials: God, man, Christ, response.

**God** is both our sovereign Creator and our righteous Judge.

- *You alone are the Lord. You have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before You (Neh 9:6).*
- *Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity (Ps 98:9).*
- God therefore has the right of ownership over us by virtue of creating us, and he has the right to punish or reward us by virtue of his royal, judicial office. And because God is both our Creator and Judge, we are doubly accountable to Him for all our behavior - word, thought, and deed.

**Man** was created by God, in God's image, to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. But man sinned against God by disobeying His holy law. Man therefore separated himself from God's holy and satisfying presence, and incurred His wrathful displeasure.

- *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (Gen 1:27).*
- *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23).*
- *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18).*

**Jesus Christ's** death was the substitute payment for the penalty that we deserved for our sin. His death is God's only provision for the forgiveness of man's sin and the appeasement of God's wrath against him.

- *All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him (Isa 53:6).*
- *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him (John 3:36).*
- *And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).*

**We are called to respond** to this good news in repentance and belief - turning away from our sin and self-sufficiency toward God, and trusting in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the substitute penalty that we deserved for our sin.

- *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15).*
- *Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem (Luke 24:46-47).*