[00:00:00] *hope: Welcome to the Hope Church Glasgow Sunday podcast. We pray you encounter God's love afresh today. Find out more about us@hopechurchglasgow.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram. Now, please enjoy this week's podcast.

[00:00:18] John: Let's pray. And then we're going to dive into the sermon.

Father, we just want to say thank you so much that you love us.

Thank you. That you're not just a far off God who's indifferent to the details of our life. You know exactly what we're thinking. You know each person in this room, what they're thinking about.

You don't judge us for our distractedness. You don't judge us for our anxiety or our worry. But you, you enter into our mess and you lift up and we thank you for that saving heart that you have.

God, our eyes are all lifted to you with varying degrees of concentration, but your eyes are fixed on us.

And so we want to pray, Lord, that you would exercise that mighty right arm of yours, your saving right arm, and that you would come and embrace us a fresh time today.

Put us onto the solid rock. Take us out of whatever miry clay, whatever swamp we might be standing in. Clean us off. Remind us of who we are.

Help us to see you afresh and be transformed from one degree of glory to another.

We ask this radical prayer not because we think we're worthy of it, but because we know who you are and we trust in you. In Jesus name, let it be so for every one of us. Amen.

Even the itty bitty babies, Even the unborn ones.

We are talking about the gospel.

It is literally good news.

It is, it is meant to be something that we feast on.

I had a great time with the Kingdom Legacy group in the middle of the week. We, we had Pete Carter that was sharing and we were in conversations, feeding back and having conversations around.

I don't even know exactly what the topic was, but the thing that I couldn't articulate it right now, this minute, it was faith. Right? That's good because that's what impacted me.

That's actually what I was going to share.

I thought it was maybe a little bit, slightly something different, but he was talking about us being in an epidemic of unbelief.

I don't know if he worded it exactly like that, but it certainly, it certainly, you know, and I, it's something that I feel like I talk about a lot, our faith and actually examining what we're really believing when we, when we look at not just our faith in Terms of our religion. Sometimes the word faith is used that way we share our faith. We have a faith, we have a religion. But actually

our faith is our belief structure. The individual things that we're believing are about God. The individual things we're believing about ourself. Do we believe God's going to come through? Do we believe that he has a future? Do we believe he wants to communicate that to us? Do we believe that he's more victorious than the scary things in the world?

Do we believe that the work, when he said it, is finished, it's actually finished?

And these things have very real practical applications in our everyday.

And if we take a good hard, honest look at our lives and the way we respond to our lives, if we're honest with ourselves and certainly I have been doing this. I don't want to be navel gazing self critical but there's a lot of areas in my life where I see anxiety.

We just moved. Moving house, you know, it's been such an amazing adventure moving house.

But you know, I'm framing it. Amazing adventure, but a lot of times it's been like, ah, you know, you're supposed to be really excited about moving into a new house. But I find whenever I make a really big purchase, if it's like a car or whatever, you get that car. And the first little bit is not enjoyable because every little knock, every little bump, every little stutter, you start to feel and you think has somebody just like pulled one over on me and sold me this dud? You know, have I just made this terrible purchase? And it's, I'm like that with new phones, you know, everything I tend to see the negative. Like, you know, and in a new house there is infinite capacity to worry.

It's like, oh, you know, I didn't notice that, I didn't notice that. And you know, we, the kitchen is doable but it's not really long term solution. So we're like, we're probably going to need to redo the kitchen and the flooring is falling a bit so we'll do the flooring at the same time. There's only two small radiators in this big huge space. So let's put underfloor heating in at the same time and, and all of a sudden you're staring at a massive project.

We take a little bit of extra mortgage money to sort of make this work and.

But the more I looked into these things, the more I got answers to how this could all work. Now I'm actually excited because I'm Thinking, actually we can make this work, we can get some secondhand stuff here and we can do this and we can do this. And actually it's probably doable. It's going to be some work. It's probably doable. Here's the problem. It wasn't until I saw all the solutions and had all the answers in the natural, but before I started to feel peace, before I started to feel excited, before I started to feel joy, there's a faith problem in the mix. If I'm honest with myself, I have to realize that my, I don't want my faith and my joy, my excitement levels, my pizzazz, my get up and go, whatever you want, however you want to say it. I don't want that to be like rooted in whether I know it's going to work out because of what I see, right?

And Pete Carter was talking about how he's like, you know, the statistics of mental health and anxiety amongst Christians is absolutely appalling.

And you kind of go, when you look at the news and you hear the depressing statistics and facts and everything sort of being, being spouts and at you, it's no wonder because we're trained to feel based on what we see, based on how what we're interacting, how we're interacting and experiencing. But the Father has, He came with good news, Jesus came with good news, and that news is meant to trump.

You can't even say that word anymore, can you?

What's a better word?

That word supersede the good news of Christ. It needs to be even stronger than supersede, overwhelm. I like it. Andy. The good news of Christ is meant to overwhelm whatever trivial nonsense. And I mean you're reading the news and you're hearing these stories and wars and they're not trivial, right? I don't want to, I don't want to trivialize them in that way. But in comparison to what God has done and what he will do and the reality, the beauty of the gospel, those things mean nothing.

Of course they're important. But in the light of God's capacity to redeem all things, all things in the light of his showing his resolute determination to finish the job one day, all of that good news, it gives us a different perspective and we need to evaluate what is the good news so that we can realign our hearts and navigate this tricky, tricky world.

I mean, the statistics with young people and eating disorders and young people and the mental health and all of the things assaulting them, young people, it's never Been more important for you to understand what the good news is for you.

And not only to understand, but to believe.

To believe, to have an application now.

Because we are believers. Faith matters.

I first gave my life to Christ that I remember at a vacation Bible school when I was about eight and you know, it was a little Baptist church. I still remember exactly what that church looks like.

A little white church on the side of Bartel Road.

And my parents dropped me off there for a week long vacation Bible school. And I'd go in and I gave my life to the Lord. It didn't really mean terribly much. What it meant was that I was a sinner, but God loved me and he gave his own son Jesus to die for my sins so, so that God would love me and I would go to heaven. That's the sense, the sense of it.

And in sports terms it was like I was on the devil's team.

I was rooting for the devil. You know, like in America, all of the fans on both sides, they all sit intermingled in all the stands. But here in Scotland you guys have a bigger problem, so you separate your fans.

So in this metaphor, I was sitting in the devil's team stance, right?

I had his scarf on and I was rooting for him but not knowing it. Go devil, you know, and all of a sudden Jesus comes in and shows me that I'm sitting in the wrong stance and I should be sitting in his stance. So I move over and think, okay, I'm going to switch over now I'm in Jesus stance, I changed my scarf and woohoo. Go Jesus. You know, now I'm rooting for God's team. Yeah.

And that was my basic understanding of the gospel. I was now on God's team. I was cheering, but it didn't really impact me very much.

What it meant was that one day I was going to go up to heaven, I was going to see Peter and Peter is going to say, why should I let you into heaven? And I was going to say, well you should let me in because I gave my life to Christ. And he'd say, right, right answer, come on in, tell him what he's won, Bob. A new car, you know, and that was the extent of my faith. Like, you know, I

was, I was gonna win, I was gonna win the prize at the end. And until then you do the best you can, you be the best kind of person that you can, you do, you know, you do your best and that was it.

But my best worked into, you know, eventually I, you know, Got into drugs and my life got all messed up and my parents life was all messed up and you're living in the mess.

And all of that faith stuff was just, you know, a distant future thing. And it didn't have any sort of output in my life. And when I was 23, all of a sudden. Well, actually I had another experience with God. When I was 16, I went to a young life camp, another camp. And at this point I was smoking drugs and dealing drugs. And they let me come to this camp and in worship I had this encounter with God. I think everybody had an encounter with God, but it was just. I knew that God was there and he was real.

And it was so intense.

It was so intense.

I left the room and went and smoked a cigarette somewhere as a teen because I'm like, this is heavy. I'm like, I don't know what this is. I did not have the processing power to understand what was going on in the room. So I was just like, I need to get out. So I went out and I smoked a cigarette. I might have smoked something else, I don't remember.

But I was just like, okay, I need to just process that.

And then when I was 23, God switched on the lights and showed me that he wasn't actually far off, he was nearby.

And it became a whole different experience because I realized I wasn't actually on the stands. I was never on the stands. I was on the pitch.

I was never a spectator.

And it was shocking. It was like, oh my gosh, I'm playing. And the reality was, I have no idea how to play this game. I don't know the rules. I don't know if we're playing with a ball or what. I was just aware there was a spiritual reality that I was being driven to and fro by these forces without any idea what I was doing, how to navigate this world.

And it was like there was a really intense desire to figure out what is true and what is not.

And essentially what I was looking for is what is the gospel and how does it apply to me?

What is the good news and how does it apply to me?

That's what we want to be celebrating. This. This. We're going to do quite a few messages on this, but I think it's probably going to be spread out longer than a normal series just because of Christmas and whatnot, so.

And different. Different things going on.

But the point is, I had misunderstood the gospel.

Now, the Bible has loads of different phrases that it uses to describe the gospel.

We like to Try to summarize the gospel into neat, concise, set bullet points that we can convey.

And there are sometimes helpful tools that through the ages, God has breathed on and, and been really helpful in helping people communicate what the gospel is. But the gospel has such breadth.

The first time the. The gospel, the word.

I'm going to go over a few different phrases that are used for the gospel.

One is just the gospel. Most often in Scripture, when the gospel is used, they just say the gospel, but there's also the Gospel of the kingdom.

Jesus came preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom.

There's also the Gospel of God that's used six times. The Gospel of the kingdom is used three times.

One time there's a phrase used, the Gospel of the grace of God.

Then let's see how many times that is. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Eight times the gospel of Christ or the Gospel of Jesus.

Then one time the gospel of the glory of Christ, One time the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, one time the gospel of peace, and one time my gospel, and then a last one, the eternal gospel.

And all of these have slightly different nuance. And we're not going to dive into any particular one, but we're going to do a little bit of a survey to get some idea of the breadth of the gospel. And then we're going to finish by having a time of prophetic ministry and an opportunity for people to actually partner with God to speak out what your good news is and give you a chance to respond by believing.

Does that sound all right?

The first one I wanted to talk to you about was the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Now, in my understanding, the first mention of this is in Matthew 4:23. It's the first time the word gospel is brought out and it says Jesus was going through Galilee, teaching in the synagogue, and proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every kind of disease, every kind of sickness amongst the people.

Now, in my false understanding of the Gospel, I had thought the gospel was just what you do when you go to. When you go. When you die. Right. That was the extent of it.

When Jesus talks about the Gospel of King the Kingdom, he's not specifically talking about heaven.

He's talking about the reign of the king of. Of kings on the earth, extending his authority.

It's no mistake that in the same verse it talks about Jesus going around proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness amongst the

people.

Jesus was not only healing illnesses, but everywhere he went, he was pulling People out of chains, he was driving out demons.

He was finding the oppressed people and giving them hope.

Everywhere Jesus went when he was talking about the Gospel of the Kingdom, it wasn't just talk for him. It was an exercise of the power of God breaking in and taking ground.

This is what it means to be on the pitch.

Every single one of us are actually on the pitch.

You don't qualify to get on the team the way that you might have to pass, you know, the, the, the tryouts and get on the team. You don't qualify that way. Jesus qualifies you. He says, I've come in. Andy did a great job last, last week unpacking the idea that Jesus entered into our mess as a man to redeem all of humanity.

That qualified you.

You are a new human in Christ.

You are on the pitch now. If you don't know who you are, you don't know how to navigate the pitch. You're going to get bowled over, you're going to get knocked down.

But the kingdom is constantly going to advance with or without you.

The kingdom, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. It's constantly going to accelerate, it's constantly going to grow. And Jesus preaches an invitation for every one of us to participate in the Gospel of the Kingdom and says, I've not called you to sit on the sidelines. I've called you to be part of seeing people set free, healed, delivered one, rescued, the hopeless to receive hope, the hungry to receive food, the imprisoned to be let out of their prisons. This is the Gospel of the Kingdom. And the promise is that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. It is not a fair fight.

That is good news. That is the Gospel of the Kingdom.

You are not supposed to hear the call to warfare with fear and dread. That is not believing the Gospel of the Kingdom. The Gospel of the Kingdom is saying, I get to participate with your power and your presence with me. Yes, God, if you don't feel excitement about going in and charging into the force, into the places of darkness with the force of light, you're not believing the Gospel of the Kingdom. And there's an invitation today, say believe.

There's an invitation to say, get excited.

It's a great call.

The Gospel of God. That phrase is used six times.

It says, Yeah, I won't read all of the verses.

But Jesus preached the Gospel of God. It says, in Mark 1:14, Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Gospel of God.

He preached the gospel of who God is.

He preached the gospel of who the Father is.

When he came to, he constantly said, I'm trying to point people to you, Father, glorify my name, that I may glorify your name.

He constantly wanted to point people to who God is.

And Paul calls us the mystery.

Because what God was like was shrouded throughout history. And when Jesus came, it was to release a new revelation of the heart of who God was.

The gospel of God is all about who God is.

And when we're sharing the gospel of God, we get to participate in sharing who God is.

It doesn't mean that we're constantly sharing everything about God. How long would that take to tell someone what God is like? I mean, it's impossible.

But you can show somebody what God was like in the same way that Jesus showed people what God was like. And you're actually sharing the Gospel of God.

How can you do that? Because you have the Spirit.

And the same way Jesus was the light of the world, he called his church to be the light of the world. He fills us with his Spirit that we get to radiate the glory of God in the same way that Jesus did. And we don't have time to go into a lot of that. But in Acts 19:2,6, there were believers who were encountered there who hadn't received the Holy Spirit when they believed.

They had believed a gospel, but they hadn't received the Holy Spirit. And it says this, he said to them, did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? And they said, no, we hadn't even heard there was a Holy Spirit. And he said, well, into what were you baptized? They said, into John's baptism. And Paul said, john baptized you with the baptism of repentance.

Now I just want to say a lot of people think that the gospel is solely repent.

Sometimes in our Christian church, we think that the gospel is repent.

And that's an important part of the gospel. Like I said, the gospel is so broad and diverse and there's so many different aspect. But it's not solely repent because these people had done that, but they hadn't heard the gospel of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel of God is also about the Holy Spirit, who is incredibly good news.

It means that you're not alone.

So upon hearing this, they said, we believe John baptized with the Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is Jesus. On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid his hands on them. The Holy Spirit came on them and they began speaking in tongues and

prophesying.

The Gospel of God is that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And understanding that means that Holy Spirit, when he comes and encounters us, we are forever changed. We're never alone.

And that is great news.

That's enough. That if you really grasp that, you will dance around the sidewalks, pavement. Sorry.

Another verse, the Gospel of the grace of God. It says in Acts, the gospel is described as the gospel of the grace of God.

Now, grace is an incredible thing, and we don't have time to unpack our inclusion. Andy did a great job with that last week. You can go and listen to the. To that message and study what it means to be adopted, what it means to be included, what it means to be in grace.

But ultimately we get to participate in grace. Not only do we get to be receivers of grace, but we get to be conduits of grace. And Jesus said, you can actually forgive and people will be forgiven.

That's amazing.

We get to partner with God not only in receiving grace, but part of the gospel of grace is that you get to become a vehicle for grace everywhere you go.

It's good news, is it not? Yeah, you should get excited about that.

We get to surrender to the grace of God. The whole idea that it's not on you to do your own salvation. And I know certainly when I first got saved, I felt a lot of pressure to get my life straightened out, a lot of pressure to get everything going.

And the gospel of grace is that it's by his work and his work alone that we are saved.

Of course we partner with that. Of course we surrender to that.

I have a dear loved family member who once called me and said, I'm just worried that I'm not surrendered enough. I don't know that I'm surrendered enough. And I said, you don't have to worry about that because you're not.

You're not. I'm not.

I'm not surrendered enough.

The question is, is he surrendered enough?

Because Jesus came and surrendered his all.

He yielded his all. He surrendered his life on our behalf.

So that we know, okay, I don't have to ask the question, am I surrendered enough? Am I believing enough? Whatever it is, however, you know, whatever work looks like for you,

whatever, wherever you feel yourself spiritually deficient, you can look to him and say, is he enough?

And that's the gospel of grace.

And there is an aspect of surrender, there is an aspect of participation, but it flows out of his work. It flows out of what he has done.

We don't have time to go into all the mechanics of that. But then there's the Gospel of Christ or Jesus.

I'm going to lump this in with the gospel of the glory of Christ.

I think one of the greatest gospel statements. I think there's two statements that I think are some of the most succinct, beautiful gospel statements in all of scripture.

God is love, and if you've seen me, you've seen the Father, The glory of Christ.

He came to radiate and show us what the Father is like.

If you've seen me. Philip's like, we just want to see the Father.

We've had it with the parables.

Just show us the Father, please.

If you just peel back the curtains and give us one glimpse, just rock us with a vision of heaven.

We want to, like, fall over from a vision. Just give us one glimpse to show us the Father. I know all the unbelief in me, all the doubting in me will go if I could just have one glimpse.

And Jesus says, if you've seen me, you've seen the Father.

He's trying to tell them this is what he's like, Friends, this is good news.

This is the gospel.

That God is love. That Jesus lived every breath for us. That he died as an expression of the Father that says, I would rather die than be apart from you for one moment, all of you at your worst.

This is the gospel of the glory of Christ. This is the gospel of Jesus.

You might not necessarily have time on a street corner when you're sharing what you believe, to go into all of the intricacies of adoption with someone.

That might be what someone needs to hear, but they might just need to hear that God is love.

That there was a lot of confusion in Jesus's day about what the Father was like. A lot of people thought he was a taskmaster. A lot of people thought he was an angry master.

And Jesus came to reveal that he actually loved us. And that if you've seen Jesus, you've seen the Father. And all someone needs to do is go into scripture and. And read about Jesus, read

about his life, read the words that he say, and ask the question, is this what God is like?

Sometimes that might be how you communicate the gospel. That's the gospel of Christ.

The gospel is also described as the message of truth. In Ephesians 1:13, the gospel of your salvation in Him. You also, when you heard the word of truth, the. The gospel of your salvation and believed in him, were Sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. Oh, I was supposed to have finished three minutes ago.

Oh, Jesus.

Oh, man, we are in trouble. All right, I'm going to. I'm going to race through this. Let me just say the gospel is individual for each one of us. The gospel of your salvation is, is that whatever you're struggling with today, God wants to save you from it.

That salvation might not look the way that you think it should, but it's always better his way.

And believing the gospel means, hey, I believe that you are the truth. And when my truth doesn't bow to your truth, my truth is wrong.

But I'm going to bow my concept and my understanding to you, to your ways, and let you be truth, so that you can be my salvation.

And salvation is not just what happens when you go to heaven.

It's not. It's more than that.

Salvation is you being rescued from your situation now and you growing. Now we have to rethink our concept of what salvation is, because when we limit our concept of the idea of salvation to heaven and hell, a whole bunch of the New Testament doesn't make sense.

Salvation is not just limited to that sphere.

Salvation is the. The demon, the demonized guy being set free. He was saved in that moment.

Salvation came to the house of the Philippian jailer.

You know, that moment, because they were lifted out of. Out of a darkness.

The gospel of peace.

It's Described in Ephesians 6:15. We're not going to go into that one.

2nd Timothy 2. 8. My gospel, remembering Jesus Christ risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel. Paul made the gospel his own friends. The invitation is for each, you and I to make the gospel our own.

Then this. I want to finish with this one.

The eternal gospel is the last time the word is used in revelation.

And this is a cool one.

This is the eternal gospel is the one that says, hey, this stretches out forever.

And the good news is good news forever. Which means it's going to end. Well, it's going to end excellently.

Spoiler alert. New heaven, new earth.

Whoa. That was enough to drop your phone over.

Everyone throw your phones. No, I'm just.

New heaven, new earth. The eternal gospel. And this is the one the angels are preaching.

Revelations 14. Then I saw another angel directly overhead with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation, tribe, and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come and worship him who made heaven. And earth and sea and springs of water.

Friends, I gotta tell you, even God's judgment is good. Good.

Even his judgment is good. It is perfect.

He doesn't have a lower sense of morality and right and wrong than we do. He has a perfect sense of what's good. And when he blows the final whistle, there's going to be a new heaven and a new earth and we're going to get new bodies.

Every tear will be wiped away.

Sorrow will be vanquished. And the scripture says he himself will be our light. There will be no sun. There will be no moon.

This is the eternal gospel.

I had this, this thought when, when we were at the Kingdom Legacy thing and talking about that. We weren't talking directly about this, but.

The idea that Jesus is the morning star and the evening star.

You know, we're in the epoch of the seventh day right now. It says in Hebrews, a Sabbath period.

But if you think about it, when that final horn goes, the final whistle is blown.

There will be a new heaven and a new earth. It's a new eighth day. It's the eighth day. On the first day, God started creation. On the seventh day he rested.

There's going to be another day where God recreates an eighth day.

And Jesus is the morning star. He's already appeared. He's the first star you see in the dusk.

And he's the evening star.

In the midst of the darkness. Here's this light signaling the end of the day and a brand new day.

And it's Jesus.

And there's going to be a new day. This is the eternal gospel. And when we see our lives and the struggles in our present moment, and we realize this is just the end times.

But we're ushered into a new day, an eternal gospel. Friends, your hearts should be lifted.

And if not, then we need to reevaluate what are we believing?

So I'm going to invite the prophetic team up and the kids are going to be released here in a little while. I'd like all the team because here's the thing. We talked about the broadness of the, of the gospel, but the reality is the gospel is for maturing every believer.

We are all to be nourished on the pure spiritual milk of the gospel.

And no matter where you are, whether you've been a believer for one day or a year, wherever you are, you're to be nourished on this. And the reality is, sometimes when we go through life, we're getting hit left, right and center and our minds are being Assaulted with this bit of news and that bit of news. And sometimes what the prophetic does is it says, I've got good news for you right now.

It cuts through all the cultural nonsense and someone's listening to Holy Spirit and they're partnering with you to say, I've got good news for you.

And my heart and my desire is that each and every person in this room would have a chance to hear good news that you need.

Maybe there's been things in the sermon that you've heard and you've thought, you know, I want to lay hold of that. I want to encourage you right now to believe.

And if you're stuck, if you feel stuck, if you feel like I just, just, I want to believe, but I'm struggling, please come forward and get prayer. I'd like to ask all the, the wider leaders to please come up front right now and stand on the edges if you've, if you've been ready for this, even if you've not been ready and you want.

And what I'd like to ask is that anybody who has kids, please come up right away.

Please come up right away because the kids are gonna get released. So could you please come up and receive prayer or ask someone, ask a close someone if they could pick up your kids for you. And then I want to encourage every one of you, while you're getting tea and coffee, feel free to go get a cup. But come and get ministry to by someone in this group or ask someone else that you're with. Can you pray over me? Can you prophesy over me?

Let's pray right now.

And we're just going to worship a little bit. But Father, we long for your good news.

We long to hear what you're saying. You said that you desire that we would have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

We pray that your word, which runs swiftly and has the power to break the cedars, would be released in your spirit, not because any of us are anointed enough, but because of your love and because of who you are. And whether someone comes forward or not. We pray that your gospel

would penetrate those hard places, those unbelieving places, those doubting places, and ultimately, Lord, that you would release freedom and kingdom and grace and peace and love and all the fruits of your spirit in this place. In Jesus name, Amen.

[00:41:02] *hope: Thank you for listening to this podcast from Hope Church Glasgow. There are loads more to listen to wherever you normally find your podcasts or from our website, hopechurchglasgow.org if you'd like to know more about us. We are on Facebook and Instagram. Just search for hope. Church Glasgow. Have a hopeful day.