

# Handout

## *Session Two: God's Gospel*

**Memory Verse:** "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

War, famine, crime, scandal-such is the stuff of headlines. It grabs our attention; it sells newspapers. And it depresses us. There is, to be sure, a desperate shortage of good news in our daily news-so much so that we are frequently skeptical of good news. In moments of cynicism we may even be tempted to label it sentimentalism rather than proper news.

1. What was the last bit of good news you read in the newspaper, saw on television, or heard on the radio? What was the last bit of good news that had relevance for your own life?

The Christian faith and life are set on the foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This Gospel is the central doctrine of Christian theology, that which distinguishes the Christian faith from all other religions and philosophies. It is, in short, the peculiar good news of Christ's death and resurrection for the free forgiveness of sins.

2. Read Romans 1:16-17. How does Paul famously describe the Gospel? In what way does it differ from the Law?
3. In the passage discussed above, Paul mentions righteousness being "revealed" with the Gospel. Compare Ephesians 6:19 and 2 Corinthians 4:4. How do these passages shed light on why the Gospel must be revealed?

