

Wretched Worldview

**Gospel Clarity:
Defining the Good News**

Study Guide

Introduction

Welcome to the study guide for Wretched Worldview's *Gospel Clarity: Defining the Good News* DVD. This guide has been created to help you maximize the content of the *Gospel Clarity: Defining the Good News* DVD.

The chapter questions are intended to be used in a homeschool setting, but can also be used for small groups or Sunday school classes. For the homeschool student, the answers should include biblical references when possible.

The Going Deeper questions are designed to encourage deeper thinking and understanding of the subject. The goal is to strengthen the viewers' biblical worldview and instill skills to think biblically.

An answer guide and essay test are also available in this download.

A Word from Wretched

Greetings!

It only makes sense that the devil would attack the most precious and important message in the Bible: the gospel. Unfortunately, he has been rather successful at confusing people about the true beauty and potency of the gospel.

Today, the gospel message varies from, "Come to Jesus and you will be rich and healthy," to, "Believe in Jesus and you will have your sins forgiven...if you do works of charity." Neither of those messages is the gospel.

While those are some of the more obvious perversions of the gospel, there are many subtle ways that we can wrongly understand the gospel:

- > We can confuse the gospel with the fruit of the gospel
- > We can confuse the offer of the gospel
- > We can confuse the response to the gospel

The gospel is the crown jewel of Scripture, so it should come as no surprise that Satan would like to pervert it, twist it, and alter it just enough to make it less than the power of God unto salvation. By working through this study guide, you are engaging in the battle to defend the glorious good news that Jesus died for sinners.

Well done!

Todd Friel
Host of Wretched Radio & TV

CHAPTER ONE: A Wonderful Plan for Your Life?

1. According to Ray Comfort, what is America's greatest sin?
2. How is idolatry like a buffet?
3. Why is idolatry such a grave sin?
4. What does Ray consider a major reason our nation has lost its fear of God?
5. Describe Paul's "abundant" life.
6. What is unbiblical about the phrase "God has a wonderful plan for your life?"
7. What kind of life does God promise to believers?
8. What do we typically think comprises a wonderful life? How is this different from God's purpose for our lives?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Find the verse where Jesus says that He has come to give us life abundantly. Write it out below.
2. Let's take a deeper look at Paul's abundant life.

Who was Paul before his conversion? Summarize below what you learn after reading the

following verses: Acts 7:58, 9:1-2, 22:3, 26:9-11; Galatians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:4-6. (Also read Acts 5:34 for information on Gamaliel.) (Note: Paul is referred to as Saul, his Hebrew name, in most of these verses.)

3. Read Acts 9:1-19 and 26:12-18 and answer the following questions.

Briefly describe what happened to Paul on the road to Damascus.

What was the specific ministry Paul was appointed to do? (Where was Jesus sending him?)

What else did the Lord tell Ananias about Paul's ministry?

What is significant about the Lord telling Ananias this?

4. In 2 Corinthians 11:24-28, Paul describes some of the suffering he has experienced as a minister of the gospel. Make a list of his experiences using the general headings below.

Suffered persecution:

Experienced catastrophe:

In danger:

Suffered physical hardship:

Suffered internal strife:

5. What was Paul's reaction to suffering for Christ? Read Philippians 1:12-20 and summarize his thoughts below.

6. What does Paul tell his fellow believers in Philippians 1:29?

7. How do you think Paul would respond to a gospel message declaring that "God has a wonderful plan for your life?" Support your answer with Scripture.

CHAPTER TWO: Judgment is Coming

1. What scenario did Ray Comfort give to expose the false message of “God has a wonderful plan for your life?”
2. In the above scenario, what message would the audience need to hear?
3. What is the key to preaching the gospel rightly?
4. What has God given us to help people understand they are sinners?
5. How thorough will God’s justice be?

GOING DEEPER:

1. How well do you know the Ten Commandments? List as many as you can from memory, then read Exodus 20:1-18 to see how well you did. Write down any you missed. (Try to get them in the correct order as well!)
2. What did Jesus have to say about these commandments? Read Matthew 5:21-22 and 27-28. Did Jesus change the commandments He was referencing in this passage?

What was His point?

3. Write Hebrews 10:31 below.

4. Who will fall into the hands of the living God on Judgment Day? Read the following passages and complete the chart. (Use a dictionary or commentary to define any words you don't understand.)

I Corinthians 6:9-10	Galatians 5:19-21	Revelation 21:8

5. Put a mark next to all of the sins above that you have committed.
6. Does this mean you will fall into the hands of the living God on Judgment Day? It depends. Read I Corinthians 6:11. What must happen in order to escape the wrath of God?
7. Does this mean we never sin anymore when we experience the events described in I Corinthians 6:11? How does Galatians 5:21 help you answer that question? (If you're not sure, use a commentary to help you understand.)
8. Take some time to think about your life in light of the above passages. Do you practice sin? Is your life marked by ongoing, habitual sin? Or have you been washed, sanctified and justified? If you're not sure, talk to someone who can help you assess your life in the light of God's Word.

CHAPTER THREE: Using the Law to Diagnose the Problem

1. What is the biblical gospel message?
2. What is God's ordained means to bring about conviction, guilt and humility?
3. How did Jesus deal with the rich young ruler when he asked Him how to obtain eternal life?
4. What is God's definition of *good*?
5. Why do most people consider themselves to be good?
6. How do we help people understand they do not meet God's standards of goodness and will be judged accordingly?
7. Why is it important for a doctor to give a diagnosis to a patient first before giving the cure?
How is this similar to giving the Law in a gospel presentation?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Make a list of the Ten Commandments again. Refer to Exodus 20:1-18 if you missed any.

2. In order to help us better understand the purpose of the Law, read Romans 3:9-20 and answer the following questions.

According to this passage, who is under sin?

How sinful is humanity? Complete the following outline based upon these verses:

There is none...

All...

Their throat:

With their tongues....

Under their lips...

Their mouths...

Their feet...

In their paths...

The path of peace...

There is no...

How would you summarize the extent of man's sinfulness?

Who is under the Law? What does it mean to be under the Law?

What does it mean that the Law closes every mouth?

What is the purpose of the Law according to this passage?

What can the Law *not* do? Why? (Use a commentary if needed.)

Read the rest of Romans 3 and summarize below how a person is justified before God.
Use a commentary if necessary.

CHAPTER FOUR: The Gospel is Great News!

1. What could be one of the reasons there are many “professors” of the gospel, but by their lifestyle they show they are not “possessors” of it?
2. What is the significance of Mount Sinai?
3. What does the first commandment address and what is its significance to the other commandments?
4. What is the purpose of the Law?
5. What do you do after opening the Law with someone?
6. How is it possible that God can justly dismiss the charges against us for our sin?
7. What must someone do in order for God to “dismiss their case” before Him?
8. What is the significance of Jesus perfectly fulfilling the Law?

GOING DEEPER:

Imputed righteousness was mentioned in this chapter. Let's look deeper at this essential doctrine of the faith.

1. Look up the word *impute* or *imputation* in a dictionary or Bible commentary and write its definition here.
2. There are three imputations mentioned in the Bible that pertain to our understanding of

the gospel. The Apostle Paul discusses two of them in Romans 5. Read Romans 5:19 and complete the chart below.

Through one man...	Action	Result

Romans 5:12 explains what happened when Adam sinned. Read the verse and add the information to the chart above.

Through one man...	Action	Result

3. Based upon the verses above, what was first imputed, or credited, to mankind and by whom? (Feel free to use a study Bible or commentary to help you understand these verses better.)

What was the second imputation based upon these verses?

4. Humanity not only bears the guilt for Adam's sin, but also suffers from the corruption of his sin. That means we have inherited a sin nature. It's in our DNA. Read what David said about his sin nature in Psalm 51:5. When did David consider himself a sinner?

This is an important truth to remember: *We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners!* Our fallen, sinful nature dictates our fallen, sinful behavior.

5. There's one more essential imputation that we must address. Read Galatians 3:13 and 1 Peter 2:22-24, then write down what is imputed, or credited, to whom. As best you can,

explain why this happened. Feel free to use a study Bible or commentary.

6. 2 Corinthians 5:21 describes what is often called “The Great Exchange”, which is another way of describing imputation. Read the verse and write down the two great exchanges being described. Use your own words.

7. Draw an illustration of “The Great Exchange” in the space below. This is at the very heart of the gospel, so it’s an important truth to understand and take very personally. If you have repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus as your Savior, then you have personally experienced this wonderful exchange! When you finish your drawing, take some time to pray and thank the Lord for what He has done to save you and make you His child.

CHAPTER FIVE: Confusing the Gospel with Its Fruit

1. What is the gospel in a nutshell?
2. What are some of the effects, or results, of the gospel as mentioned in the segment? Can you add more?
3. Why did Todd draw a circle around the gospel?
4. Why is it important to differentiate between the gospel and its effects?
5. What word is not mentioned in regards to the gospel in the book of Acts? Which words are mentioned multiple times? Why is this?
6. What is the danger of someone responding to the gospel message for its “gifts”, but not for its “Giver”?

GOING DEEPER:

Let's look at some of the sermons in the book of Acts to see how the Apostles preached the gospel to the Jews and Gentiles of their day. What can we learn from them?

1. Read Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:22-36 and answer the following questions.

How does Peter address his audience? What does this tell you?

How does Peter present Jesus in his sermon? Write a short summary after each verse listed below.

Verse 22 –

Verse 23 –

Verse 24 –

Verse 25 –

Verse 31 –

Verse 33 –

Verse 36 –

According to Peter, whose plan was fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus?

What did Peter accuse his audience of doing?

2. How did the people respond to Peter's message? Read Acts 2:37-38.
What was the reaction of those who heard Peter's preaching?

What did Peter tell them?

3. Read Peter's second sermon in Acts 3:11-19.
What had just happened earlier in the chapter that prompted Peter's sermon?

What was the crowd's reaction to this?

How did Peter transition this event into an opportunity to present the gospel?

What does Peter charge his audience with doing to Jesus?

What titles does he use to describe Jesus?

To what does Peter declare they are witnesses?

What is the significance of verse 18?

To what did Peter attribute the man's miraculous healing?

How did Peter want the audience to respond to his message?

4. In the above examples, Peter was preaching to the Jews. Let's now look at how Paul preaches the gospel to Gentiles. Read Acts 17:22-34.

What does Paul use, or refer to, as an opportunity to preach to the men of Athens?

How does Paul describe the only true God?

Verse 23:

Verse 25:

Verse 26:

Verse 29:

Verse 31:

How does Paul distinguish between the one true God and the gods worshipped by the Athenians?

How does Paul describe mankind's relationship to God?

What does the one true God demand of all men, including these Athenians? Why?

Why do you think Paul spent so much time explaining who God is before calling them to repentance?

Why do you think Peter did not do the same?

How will God judge the world?

What did God do to prove that this Man was sent by Him?

How did Paul's audience respond to that claim?

5. What are the similarities between Peter and Paul's preaching of the gospel?
6. Is this kind of gospel preaching similar or different from what you hear today? Explain and give examples to support your answer.

CHAPTER SIX: Wrong Responses to the Gospel

1. What is the biblical response to the gospel?
2. What are the wrong responses to the gospel, as presented in the DVD? Give a brief explanation as to why each is unbiblical.

GOING DEEPER:

1. The biblical response to the gospel is repentance and faith. Read the following verses and make note of who is giving the command to repent and believe, the audience being addressed, and the content. (You will have to read a few verses before or after to understand the context.)

Mark 1:15 –

Acts 20:21 –

Hebrews 6:1 –

2. What important fact about repentance do you learn from the following verses?
Acts 11:18 and 2 Timothy 2:25.

3. What short phrase is used in both Acts 26:20 and I Thessalonians 1:9 to describe the act of repentance?

What does this phrase imply about what an unsaved person is turned *towards* before they repent? How does I Thessalonians 1:9 show this?

In the space below, draw a picture of repentance as depicted in the phrase from the passages in Acts and I Thessalonians.

4. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 describes two kinds of sorrow. Read the verses and fill in the chart below as applicable.

	Godly Sorrow	Worldly Sorrow
Is According to:		
Produces:		
Leads to:		

5. Because the difference between these two sorrows is the difference between life and death, it is imperative to understand this difference. Read a commentary or two and summarize

below what you learn.

6. According to Matthew 3:8, Luke 3:8, and Acts 26:20, what will true repentance produce? Explain what this “produce” is. (Use a commentary if necessary.)

7. Have you experienced godly sorrow over your sin which produces a genuine repentance (a turning away from your sin and turning to God), and leads to salvation? Does your life now reflect fruit in keeping with repentance? Take a few moments to prayerfully answer these questions. Don’t take this lightly. Life and death hang in the balance!

CHAPTER SEVEN: Why Evangelicals Don't Evangelize

1. In the poll Todd referenced, what percent of Christians share their faith with others?
2. The puritans preached in such a way as to let people know the gospel has demands. What does that mean?
3. What is meant by the term *regeneration* (as used in this context)? Look it up in a dictionary if you're not sure.
4. Based on the quote from Joel Beeke in his book, *Puritan Evangelism*, how does a person experience regeneration, according to the Bible?
5. According to the same quote by Beeke, what are the characteristics of a regenerate person?
6. In the final quote by Beeke, he warns of the tragic fruit that results from the absence of sin in today's modern preaching and evangelism. He mentions the effect on three groups of people. Who are they and what is the fruit mentioned?
7. What would happen if today's preachers were more like the puritans in their preaching of sin and its eternal consequence?

GOING DEEPER:

1. What does it mean to be "born again"? Read John 3:1-21 and answer the following questions.

What did Jesus first say to Nicodemus that caused him great confusion?

How did Nicodemus respond? Was his response reasonable?

What are two births and two natures that Jesus describes in verse 6?

Jesus told him not to marvel at His statement. He then compared the working of the Holy Spirit to the wind. What point was Jesus trying to make?

How does John 1:12-13 reinforce Jesus' statement about the Holy Spirit's role in salvation?

Do you think Nicodemus had been born of the Spirit? Give support for your answer.

According to Jesus, how is the new birth appropriated to someone? What verses tell you this?

What does Jesus say about those who do not believe?

Why have unbelievers been judged already? Use Scripture to support your answer.

2. How does Ephesians 2:1&5 help you understand the necessity for being born again? Explain your answer. (Use a commentary if necessary).

3. According to Colossians 1:13, what happens when someone is born again? Relate this to what you learned in Ephesians 2:1 &5.

4. What are the differences between being spiritually dead and spiritually alive?
Read the following verses and complete the chart below.
2 Corinthians 1:22, 4:4, 5:17
Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:17-18, 24
1 Peter 1:23

Spiritually Dead	Spiritually Alive

CHAPTER EIGHT: Goats in the Pews

1. What was the point of Todd and Adrian's "really unrehearsed" skit?
2. What's the danger of "gussying up" the gospel? Why?
3. What was the "method" of evangelism for the Puritans?
4. What is the danger of not evangelizing as the Puritans did?
5. According to the quote from Joel Beeke, (from his book, *Puritan Evangelism*), what is missing in today's modern evangelism? What is the result?

GOING DEEPER:

1. What is a Christian's relationship to sin? Read Romans 6 and answer the following questions. Be sure to cite the verse(s) in your answers.

How does Paul describe our relationship with sin in verse 2?

Paul uses the word *baptize* in this chapter in a figurative sense. He is not referring to someone being immersed in water. Rather, he is speaking of being united to, or identifying with Christ.

What happens when someone is baptized into Christ Jesus?

For what purpose?

How have we become united with Christ in His resurrection?

What happens when someone has died to sin?

Who is the *old self* that Paul refers to in verse 6? Use a commentary if you're not sure of the answer.

How does Paul describe the old man throughout this chapter?

What happens to the one who is dead to sin?

How are they to present themselves to God?

According to verse 16, we are slaves to only two masters. What are they and what is the result of each?

When someone is freed from sin, what do they become slaves to?

What is the result and outcome of being enslaved to God?

2. Explain Galatians 2:20 in light of what you learned in Romans 6.

3. Sanctification (holiness) is an important facet of salvation. We are not just saved *from* our sins, but we are saved *to* walk in newness of life (Romans 6:5). Read the following passages and make a list of what we are to “put on” and “put off” as we grow in sanctification. (Some verses will imply or assume that which is to be put off or put on.)
Ephesians 4:22-32; Colossians 3:8-14; 1 Peter 2:1-2

Put Off	Put On

4. The process of sanctification is summed up nicely in Philippians 2:12-13. What role do believers have and what role does God have, and how are they connected?
5. According to Philippians 2:13, how are we able to put off the old self and put on the new self?

CHAPTER NINE: Forgetting the First Part of the Gospel- Part 1

1. Why do Peter and Paul, in their epistles, continually remind their readers of the gospel?
2. What are the two components of the gospel? Explain each one as presented in the DVD.
3. What happens when we forget one or both of the main messages of the gospel?
4. Which of these two components do we most often forget and how does it manifest itself in our daily lives?
5. Since everyone is a sinner, and even Christians still sin, then what should be our response to sin?

GOING DEEPER:

1. In this chapter, Todd referred to forgetfulness as a *noetic effect of the fall*. Research the word *noetic* and give a brief description of it here. Include its definition, and anything else you learn about it.
2. Based upon your understanding of the word *noetic*, to what is the phrase “noetic effect of the fall” referring?
3. Using a concordance, find at least five Bible verses that support each component of the gospel and list them below.
1) We are very bad sinners who hate God:

2) Jesus is a very great Savior who saves rebels.

4. Of the verses you found above, pick one from each component of the gospel to memorize. Write them out in the space below.

CHAPTER TEN: Forgetting the First Part of the Gospel – Part 2

1. What are the two main components of the gospel?
2. List the seven statements that reveal when we're forgetting the first part of the gospel. Also, write a brief explanation as to how each statement reveals our gospel amnesia.
3. How do we keep ourselves mindful of the gospel so we don't respond to sin in these ways?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Have you ever found yourself saying or thinking one of the statements above? When are you most likely to say or think them, and to whom are they most often directed?

2. Rewrite the seven statements above from a gospel perspective. Choose a scenario for each one, and write out your response. For example, statement 7 could be rewritten as follows:
When I was your age I was a little sinner too. I still am. So I understand why you're behaving as you are. It's hard to obey, isn't it? But the Lord can help you do what is right. And so can I...

7) When I was your age...

6) Kids these days...

5) How many times do I have to tell you?

4) What's the matter with you?

3) I can't believe you did that.

2) How dare you?

1) I'm disgusted with you.

3. Take a few moments to reflect upon your sinfulness by listing some of the sins for which God has graciously forgiven you. Then, spend some moments in prayer, thanking Him for sending Jesus to suffer and die for these sins, so you could be forgiven for them. Don't rush through this. This is what remembering the gospel is all about!

CHAPTER ELEVEN: Forgetting the Second Part of the Gospel – Part 1

1. What are the two parts of the gospel message?
2. What happens when we forget the first part?
3. What is the state of sinners apart from Christ?
4. What is the main point of John 3:16?
5. What Bible verse did Todd quote in describing God's love? Look it up and write it out below.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Look up the following verses on the wrath of God and write a brief summary of what you learn from each passage.
Ezekiel 5:11-13, 15 (*note the context*) –

John 3:36 –

Romans 1:18 –

Romans 2:5 –

Colossians 3:6 –

Ephesians 2:1-5 (*use a commentary if necessary to better understand this verse*)–

Revelation 6:12-16 –

2. The word *propitiation* is very important in understanding how God's wrath is removed from us when we are in Christ. Look up the word in a dictionary and write its definition here.
3. The Greek word for *propitiation* is *hilastrion*. This is the same word for the mercy seat, which covered the Ark of the Covenant. Read the following verses and then summarize the significance of the mercy seat. (The Hebrew word for *atonement* means to cover, to make reconciliation, to appease, to cleanse.)
Exodus 25:17-21; Leviticus 16: 2-3, 11-14, 29-30, 34
4. How does Isaiah 53:11 convey the idea of propitiation?
5. Read the following verses, then answer the questions that follow.
Romans 3:23-25; Hebrews 2:17; I John 4:10

Who put Jesus forward as a propitiation for sin?

How do we know God loves us?

How do we receive this propitiation for our sin?

According to Hebrew 2:17, what was required of Jesus to make propitiation for sin? Explain what this means. (Hebrews 2:18 will help you better understand.)

6. Reflect upon everything you read regarding God's wrath and Jesus being the sacrifice that satisfied His wrath. Write down your thoughts and then spend some time praying and thanking God for sending His Son to be the propitiation for your sin.

CHAPTER TWELVE: Forgetting the Second Part of the Gospel – Part 2

1. How are the results of forgetting the first part of the gospel often different than the results of forgetting the second part?
2. List the seven statements that reveal we're forgetting the second part of the gospel. Include a brief explanation as to why each statement is wrong in light of the gospel.

GOING DEEPER:

1. The second message of the gospel is that Jesus is an amazing Savior. So just how amazing is He? Below is a short list of everything that Jesus has done for us and provided to us through His death and resurrection. Using a concordance, find at least one verse to support each statement. (You don't need to write the entire verse out.)

Jesus is an Amazing Savior!

- 1) Provided the basis for our justification:
- 2) Made it possible for us to have peace with God:
- 3) Gave His life so we could be forgiven for our sins:
- 4) His resurrection from the dead ensures our future resurrection to eternal life:
- 5) Took our sin and gave us His righteousness:
- 6) Took away our condemnation:
- 7) Freed us from the demands of the Law:
- 8) Is our Faithful High Priest:
- 9) Is able to cleanse our consciences:
- 10) Gives us bold and confident access to the Father:
- 11) Secures our sanctification:
- 12) Will present us to the Father blameless with great joy:
- 13) Caused us to be delivered from the domain of darkness:
- 14) Caused us to become sons of God and co-heirs with Him:

15) Made it possible for God to richly pour out the Holy Spirit upon us:

2. Choose one of the verses you found above to memorize. Write it below and remember to recite it to yourself several times a day. Before you know it, you'll have committed it to memory!

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: The Power of Remembering the Gospel

1. How did Cory Foster describe his life before marriage?
2. How did Cory describe his understanding of Christianity at this time?
3. What happened to his behavior after marriage?
4. What did they do as a couple to help their troubled marriage, and what was the result?
5. When Cory finally confessed everything to his wife, Dayna, what was it that she remembered in that moment and how did it affect her response to Cory?

GOING DEEPER:

1. What are your thoughts about Cory and Dayna's story? Can you relate to it in any way? Write your thoughts below.
2. Has anyone ever sinned against you in such a hurtful way? (Maybe not adultery, but any

sin that caused you deep and profound pain.) Were you able to forgive that person? Why or why not?

3. Take a few moments to reflect on the gospel by honestly answering the questions under each part. When you're done, pray about your answers.

We are very bad sinners who hate God.

- How have you sinned against God? Think about your actions, your thoughts, and your words.
- Do these sins bother trouble your conscience?
- Does it concern you that you have sinned against God?

Jesus is a very great Savior who saves rebels.

- Have your sins been forgiven by the blood of Jesus?
- Or do you believe you are too great a sinner to be forgiven?
- Have you been trying to "do the things you're supposed to do" to clean up your act? How has that been working out for you? Can you relate to Cory's experience with trying to do religious things, but not seeing a real change?

If you want further information about how to become a Christian, please go to www.wretched.tv. You'll find helpful (and free!) information on what it means to be a Christian, and how you can know for sure that you're saved.