



C O V E N A N T
T H E O L O G I C A L S E M I N A R Y

BS 6006 THE GOSPEL
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COMPLETED WORK IS TO BE SUBMITTED IN A SINGLE PDF DOCUMENT

1. A cover page which includes:
 - a. Name of course, author and instructor's name with title
 - b. Student's name, degree working toward, and the date completed
 - c. Facilitator's complete title/name the seminary's name and location (Greenville, NC)
2. Separate page & heading for each new section, capitalized at top center of that page SUMMARY, PRECIS, PAPER
3. All papers are to be typed with .5" margins using font & size: Calibri 11 pt. Summaries and book reports are to be double-spaced
4. Grading will be percentage based on questions, outlines, grammar, and theological and philosophical thought and execution of writing forms.

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COURSE ASSIGNMENT: BS 6006 THE GOSPEL

Textbook

Gospel Allegiance: What Faith in Jesus Misses for Salvation in Christ (Matthew W. Bates)

ISBN: 9781587434297

Summary:

Is faith in Jesus enough for salvation? Perhaps, says Matthew Bates, but we're missing pieces of the gospel. The biblical gospel can never change. Yet our understanding of the gospel must change. The church needs an allegiance shift.

Popular pastoral resources on the gospel are causing widespread confusion. Bates shows that the biblical gospel is different, fuller, and more beautiful than we have been led to believe. He explains that saving faith doesn't come through trust in Jesus's death on the cross alone but through allegiance to Christ the king. There is only one true gospel and one required response: allegiance.

1. WATCH:

- Connection of the Old Testament and New Testament Covenant: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cv3zePNBJdA>
- The Gospel Part 1: Issues with the steps of Salvation and the Romans Road: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRc4UE1zHj0&t=2s>
- The Gospel Part 2: What is the Gospel?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Me2ii2UDzwQ>
- The Gospel Part 3: Sharing the Gospel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDRjQkGGIkM>
- The Gospel Part 4: Matthew Bates Interview on Gospel Allegiance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8HHOuPLpBw>

2. PRECIS: write a book report for the textbook. Pages according to degree work per degree for book report requirement:

- Master: 5
- Doctorate: 8

3. PAPER: write a paper on the contrast between the Western view of the Gospel and the Biblical Gospel. Below are some topic ideas:

- i. The Gospel and The Romans Road
 - ii. The Gospel and the 4 Spiritual Laws
 - iii. Faith/Allegiance and the Gospel
 - iv. Analyze 1 of the Gospel proclamations in Acts (Acts 2:14-39, Acts 3:12-26, Acts 4:8-12, Acts 7:2-53, Acts 10:34-43, Acts 13:16-41, Acts 17:22-31)
- Minimum pages and citations according to degree work per degree:
 - Master: 5
 - Doctorate: 8

SAMPLE PAPER (SHORTENED)

The Ascension and the Gospel

Ascension Day in most protestant churches is a day that is ignored. In my opinion it is one of the most important day on the church calendar. Its message is essential to the Gospel, but I feel like most American Christians do not understand its importance and how essential it is, actually in the Western version of the Gospel it is basically left out. In this paper we'll look at the Gospel and what it meant in its context and for us in its presentation.

What is the Gospel?

Gospel mean good news. It was usually a royal announcement in the ancient world. Priene inscription was found in Asia minor containing the word *euangelion* which is our word for "good new" but it was not a religious announcement but rather the announcement of Caesar's birthday and the proclamation of his kingship bringing salvation to the world by ending all wars. So in the historical context of "gospel" it really meant a royal announcement about a king and a kingdom. We see this context come up in the gospel of Mark, "*Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news from God. "The time has come," Jesus said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"*" (MARK 1:14-15) To Jesus "gospel" and "kingdom" are connected. For there to be a kingdom there must be a king! Notice it's about Jesus and the Kingdom and not about us. There is a response expected though; to repents, meaning to change your mind and your allegiances.

Both Jesus and Paul derived this important word (Gospel) from the prophetic poetry of Isaiah in the Old Testament (Isaiah 52:7-10) where the future arrival of God's Kingdom through the Messiah is called good news, *How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"* (ISAIAH 52:7) The context here is the return from exile and God becoming King again in Jerusalem. Jesus and the Apostle's announcement of the good news lines up with this theme of God's rescue of his people and his enthronement.

The Ascension

Jesus was with his followers for 40 days after his resurrection and then he ascends, following this we read, ⁵¹ *While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.* ⁵² *Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.* ⁵³ *And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.* (Luke 24:51-52) Luke says Jesus left the disciples with "Great joy?" Why would the departing of Jesus bring the disciples great joy? The idea here is that he hadn't left permanently he was sending His Spirit from to dwell in them and would be with us until he comes again in Glory. They were happy because Jesus wasn't really leaving but he was taking up residence in their hearts but also, he was being enthroned as King in Heaven. He would be with them forever and rule forever.

Acts describes the ascension saying, *"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."* (Acts 1:9). Daniel knew about this cloud and the ascension about 600 years before it happened,

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14

Daniel saw the "son of man." Jesus called himself the "son of man" about eighty times in the gospels. There is no doubt he is referring to Jesus Here. We sometimes miss this but when Jesus is before the Sanhedrin, he says this in Mark 14:61-64,

⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again, the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" ⁶² "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. ⁶⁴ "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

Jesus is saying He's going to be ascending to be the king. This is what got him killed.

The Cloud

The cloud is the glory cloud that led the nation of Israel out of Egypt. It was a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: *“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.”* (Exodus 13:21) *The cloud that awaited Jesus in Acts 1:11 was the glory cloud. The glory cloud contains the throne of God. Psalm 97:2 states, “Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.”* The cloud and the throne are synonymous.

Ascension Day in Revelation

Some may say that Jesus’ kingship actually only goes into effect at the end when he returns and sets up his 1000-year reign but look at this in Revelation: *“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”* (Revelation 1:9) John was in the kingdom of Jesus Christ nearly 2000 years ago. The book of Revelation is not only about a kingdom to come one day. It is about an existing kingdom that began on Ascension Day.

This is why the disciples having "great joy" in Luke 24:52. Jesus is enthroned, and we have been made kings and priests, or a kingdom of priests, to God and we are now to reign through him on the earth. as it says in Revelation 5 (which I'd argue is another picture of the Ascension- worthy to take the scroll).

The Gospel

The Ascension is central to the Gospel because it directly connects the kingship of Jesus to the gospel and salvation itself. I think we cheapen the gospel when we reduce it to the 4 spiritual laws:

- "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life."

- "Humanity is tainted by sin and is therefore separated from God. As a result, we cannot know God's wonderful plan for our lives."
- "Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Jesus Christ, we can have our sins forgiven and restore a right relationship with God."
- "We must place our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior in order to receive the gift of salvation and know God's wonderful plan for our lives."

I'd say all these are true, but what about the Kingship of Jesus? Another misinterpretation of the Gospel is the Romans Road:

- It starts out with our **Problem** from **Romans 3:23**: *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- It then moves to our **Peril** in **Romans 6:23**: *For the wages of sin is death . . .*
- And to God's **Provision** in **Romans 5:8**: *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- The Romans Road culminates in our **Response** in **Romans 10:9**: *That if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.*

But what about the Kingship of Jesus? Again, these all contain "truths" but look a lot different than the way the apostles presented the Gospel in the Bible.

Notice all are centered around "us and our problem" and not really centered around "Jesus and his kingship". The western Gospel has become a plan of "salvation" and not a gospel of Jesus' kingship (the accession) I agree that we have a problem and we do need to realize it. We are idol factories, and we need to turn our allegiance to the King of kings.

The simple Gospel is that "Jesus is the resurrected saving king" (The Ascension)

New I'll look at three of Paul's gospel announcements. Romans 1:2-4 is an explicit statement about Paul's gospel, and it says, "² the gospel He promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures

regarding God's Son, who descended from David in his physical lineage, and who was appointed by the Holy Spirit to be the Son of God in power through his resurrection from the dead: Jesus, the Messiah, our Lord."

Paul talks about David, connecting Jesus as a Jewish King. Next, the Son of God was the title for Caesar (a kingly title). then the Messiah which is another kingly title. This is the Gospel that Paul is unashamed of. Notice nothing about me or you but all about Jesus.

Next, we have 1 Corinthians 15:1-8,

Now I make known to you, brethren, the good news (Gospel) which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: *that the Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared to me also.*

Again, the Gospel is about Jesus. It is about the Messiah, so we need to be thinking about a king. The next question we need to look at is "according to the scriptures". What scriptures? all the scriptures!!! The whole story of Israel in the Old Testament as we saw above in Isaiah and the release from exile! This whole story anticipated a king; the Daniels "son of Man" and the King in the line of David.

The third explicit gospel statement in Paul is from 2 Timothy 2:8, "*Remember Jesus Christ (the Messiah/the king), raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel.*" Once again, we have David linked to Jesus communicating the kingship and the climax of the Jewish story. Next, we have the resurrection which makes Jesus the vindicated, forever King of kings. Notice there's nothing about "me" or "you" in this gospel proclamation it's all about Jesus.

This is what Paul is not ashamed of in Romans 1:16-17. The Jewish King is the king of the world. The Gospel is a Royal announcement about Jesus as king as the establishment of his kingdom. But this announcement calls those who hear it to make a choice... which kingdom will you serve?

Conclusion

In conclusion I'd like to look at one of my favorite stories in the Bible. It reveals the provocativeness of the Gospel (Jesus is King),

⁵ But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, **“These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. ⁷ Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.”** Acts 17:5-7

Paul, Silas, and Jason were not attacked because they proclaimed, “no King but Christ”. The question we need to ask is “How can you make Jesus’ kingship a bigger part of our Gospel Message?” The kingship and ascension of Jesus was central in the Gospel presentations of the early church. Finally, are people saying we are turning the world upside down for His Kingdom? How does our life and our church display the kingship of Jesus? We need to live out our allegiance to the Kingdom because it is the true response the Gospel of Jesus as the saving resurrected king.