

Yes, This Gospel is For You!
John 6:40

We have gone through this passage and seen some glorious and lofty truths that we could never possibly know about our salvation unless God had revealed them. We saw that even before there is any faith or any trust in Christ there has already been some that have been given by the Father to the Son. He would not die in vain, but that sacrifice would save individuals, it would be effective in producing kingdom citizens. Look at verse 37 again, **“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”** And notice that all the Father gives to Son has already been done or given before they ever come to Jesus Christ, but in time they will come. It is not that they might but that they will. And that is because of God’s effective grace in the heart of the “All that the Father gives.” We all know Ephesians 2:8, **“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”** What is effective grace? It is a gift of God that causes the chosen sinner to believe on the Lord Jesus. Salvation is all the word and doing of God.

And we realize because God planned salvation and initiated that he will bring it to fruition. In fact we are kept by the power of Christ, and because he is God he loses none that are given to him. Look at the end of that verse, “and whoever come to me I will never cast out.” The meaning of cast out, is to toss from his presence, to throw out. And Christ will never discard his people. And the next two verses solidify that great hope that we have as believers, **“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.”** Jesus has come down from heaven to carry out the will of the Father. So it is not only that we are loved by Jesus but by the Father also who sent Christ to be that perfect payment for our sin and fulfill his own justice that he might lavish his mercy on us. And it is the Father’s will not only that Jesus should die that substitutionary death, but those who the Father has given that he should lose none who believe on Him, and that they should be found with him on that great day of resurrection.

And tonight we come to verse 40, and what I want us to see after all that has been said. We realize that there are only a limited number that are given by God the Father to the Son, and you cannot get away from that truth. But the amazing thing is that the gospel is open to all. The offer of the gospel is made to all. And if you have been listening over the last several weeks and have wondered if that gospel is for you, the answer is yes. The call of Christ is to come and believe on him. He says in Matt. 11:28, **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** If you are burdened by the weight and the guilt and judgment awaiting your sin, Jesus invites you to come, and he says, “Come to me, all.” That “all” includes you. And the promise is glorious. So often we talk about the certainties of life, and those who are cynical say that there are two certainties in life - death and taxes. But for believers in Jesus Christ that is not true. We might die physically but we never die, to be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord. And even as we look at this passage we see that there is coming a great day of resurrection for believers in Christ. And these are certainties! And if you have never trusted Christ, I want you to realize that the door

is open to you. I want you to come to Christ, and if you come he will never cast you out. If you are already a believer in Christ, I want to rehearse these great truths in your ears. In all of the uncertainties, and trials, and bends in the road that you never imagined would take place, we have the certainty of forever and ever with Jesus Christ. And that changes everything. This is not all there is and we do not need to live as if this is all there is. So I want us to see the offer and the promise.

1. We need to see the universal offer. V.40.

As you talk to individuals it is amazing how they think that the gospel is not for them. They look at the church many times as a bunch of perfect or near perfect people who would never want them in their midst. And maybe the church has not been welcoming and loving and reached out to others and invited them in. Maybe it has given the wrong impression that if you ever want to be counted in our number then you have to clean up your act before you will ever be one of us. But all of us need the forgiving, transforming and sustaining grace of Christ. And the gospel offer is not made to some that meet a certain status or requirement but it is open to all.

Look at what Jesus says here and take great heart in these words, **“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life.”** Do you hear those words. The will of God the Father is to grant or gift or grace salvation to every sinner who looks and believes on the Son. The meaning of look, is to observe and to see, in other words to understand that Jesus came into this world, that he lived a life that none of us could ever live and that is absolutely sinless and holy life, dedicated perfectly to obeying and delighting in the Father. We cannot even go a day or hour without sinning. And he died a death that was unlike any in human history. We are told in Romans 6:23 that the “wages of sin is death.” Jesus never deserved to die because he never sinned, but he willingly and voluntarily, according to the will of the Father laid down his life as a sacrifice for sin. He took the punishment the sinner deserves for all of eternity and dies in his or her place. 2Cor. 5:21 explains it so well, **“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”** He came to bear the punishment of sin, and give his perfect righteousness that we might be welcomed and accepted before God in Christ.

But notice it is not just that “looks on the Son” but he also “believes in him,” in other words it is not just knowing the facts of the gospel, but believing and trusting that what Jesus did is enough for a sinner like me. It is simple faith in the work of another and not in me. And look at the promise here, “have eternal life.” Instead of eternal death, there is eternal life. And we hear those two words “eternal life” although there is nothing in our experience that can cause us to truly comprehend fully this promise we know what it is like. Eternal has the meaning of never ending, and when he uses the word “life” we realize that this is the opposite of death, but it is more than that. If God is life then death is life that is absent from God, and here is the promise is that there will be life before God that will never have the category of death or separation from him, and we will live and dwell in his presence forever. It is like Psalm 23:6 says, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” We will dwell in his house, in his presence forever, not

based on my goodness or work or effort but based on the work and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

And let me make two more comments with this. One is that this is the will and the promise of God. And even as we said last time we were together, that God's will is never uncertain or unalterable, but it is unchangeable. Malachi 3:6 says, "**For I the Lord do not change.**" God never changes. His promises and will never change. And therefore if you believe on Jesus you have the unalterable promise of God.

The second thing that I want us to see is that this is not against the doctrine of God's sovereign choice of who will be saved or against the doctrine of election. And isn't it amazing that in a passage like this both are taught side by side. We see all that are given by the Father will come to Christ, and then the universal offer of the gospel. And it is amazing that those who hold exclusively to the responsibility of individuals to believe then God's sovereignty cannot be true. Both are taught in this passage as in other passages of Scripture. We hold to God's sovereign choice in salvation and man's responsibility to believe. I can say with equal force, that you need to turn from your sin and self-righteousness and believe on Christ or you will come into judgment to any and all, and if you turn the reason is God's elective decrees. When someone comes, I never give them a high five and congratulate them but indicate to them that the reason they responded was the effective grace of God in their lives.

Someone once illustrated this text as a door with two sides. On the one side is the promise, "whomsoever may come" and as the person passes through that door and looks at the other side is "chosen before the foundation of the world." And here is my whole point, the call to believe and the promise held out to you, this gospel, this great news is being made to you today. And of you believe on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour you have eternal life. And notice the tense here, "have eternal life." In other words, it is a present reality. And believers give witness to that eternal life. There is a new quality of life even in the here and now that is a small taste of what is to come. Jesus is continually changing us to be more like him, causing our hope and joy to grow in him. God has become real, glory has come, and there is a great anticipation of what is to come. The call for you is to come today. Look and behold Christ. He is all you need as a sinner. Believe on him. Trust that what he has done is enough, and joyfully come follow Him.

2. We need to see the fullness of the promise. V.40b.

The amazing thing about the promises of God is that if we did not read them in Scripture, in other words, given by God, we would never know how great these promises are. They would be too good to be true. We live in a very harmful and dangerous world. There is disease, war, famine, and earthquakes, storms and the like. But one of the promises of God is that there is going to be a new heaven and new earth. He is going to recreate creation so that we will be able to live in a world where nothing is broken. He is going to give us new bodies that are free from the impediments that we suffer in the here and now. Joel Osteen wrote a very influential book but sadly deceived so many called, "Your Best Life Now." Our best life as believers is not in the here and now,. And if we try to create paradise in the here and now, we are going to be bitter, discouraged, disappointed and frustrated. That is why no amount of pleasure can satisfy the soul is because we were made for another

paradise. No amount of sex, money, achievement can ever give us the hope of paradise. I mean listen to the promise in Rev. 21:1-4, **“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”** That promise is bigger than anything in the here and now.

And one of the things this promise gives us is what this passage is talking about and that death will be no more. There will be a death of death. And what God will give us is a new physicality. Look at the end of verse 39, **“but raise it up on the last day.”** And then look at the end of verse 40, **“and I will raise him up on the last day.”** The last day here is a series of events when Jesus Christ returns and begins his end time program. And he came the first time as a lamb but will come as the end time judge and king. And he will gather those who are his to himself. Notice the word “raise” here. What is he talking about? And his Jewish audience would have known what he was talking about - the resurrection. Our bodies at death again go in the ground, but the spirit or the immaterial aspect of believers goes to be with the Lord. And it is such a far better state than we are in right now. Paul says in Phil. 1:21, **“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”** What is dying for the believer? Gain! But Paul has this struggle whether to stay or depart in the next two verses, **“If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.”** It is far better, superior to be with Christ.

But as believers that is not our ultimate hope. So often we ask the question, “what is better than being with the Lord Jesus in his heaven at this time?” And the answer is to be bodily with him. Paul talks about this in 2Cor. 5:4, **“For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened-not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.”** He says we will be further clothed, in other words, it will be the same but different. And if God resurrected us with the same feeble and breakable body in this perfect paradise we would not be able to enjoy all that Christ is for us. But he gives us a body perfectly suit for our new reality. We have a description of that new physical existence with the present body that we have now in 1Cor. 15: 42-44, **“So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”** He gives us a body, a humanity which is able to enjoy all that Christ is for us. And all of this is ours through simple belief in Jesus Christ.

You see, your best life has not passed you by. It is so easy even as believers to live with regret especially as time goes by that things I once enjoyed I am not able to enjoy anymore. It could be the little voices of children in the house, the pleasure of companionship, the satisfaction of work and career, but none of these things were ever meant to be a destination but they were signs, indicators and pointers to a greater joy that awaits us in Jesus Christ. The most significant events and joys in your life are still in front of you, and they are beyond us to truly comprehend in the fullest sense. And for those who are younger, it is so easy to lose sight of eternity because there is so much life still in front of you, and so many things to look forward to - marriage, family and careers and life. And there is nothing wrong with looking forward to these things. All the pleasures in this world that you will enjoy are given by God. We live in a world of pleasure. But again, these pleasures were never meant to be our destination. These pleasures were never meant to be the goal or end. The moment we make them that we make bad and foolish choices. God wants us to enjoy them in his parameters, but they all point to life eternal with Jesus Christ. If Christ came back today before you could ever have those things it would never be loss but as Paul says - gain.

As our bodies begin to rust and wear out may our faith in Christ and what he has purchased and promised shine forth that much brighter. We read in 2 Cor. 4:16-18, **“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”** What a great hope. No wonder the Bible ends with these words in Rev. 22:20-21, **“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.”**

So I have two challenges to end with. If you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, why wouldn't you want to? What are you waiting for? The judgment of God is inevitable, but God has given us a way that we might have life. Don't fool yourself, no one will escape that judgment; only if they have trusted in Christ. There is no other name and no other way. And if the hope and promises from God are this great and this great and this grand, why would you not want to come? Bow the knee and admit that you are a sinner deserving of judgment, but thank God for his gift of Christ, and that promise to you as you believe on Christ. It is a promise for you.

And the other challenge is for believers. We are always trying to make sense out of our trials and circumstances. And in the midst of living in this fallen world, we can forget that we were made for Christ. We are His, kept by him, and he will see us through all the storms and adversity. But also we were made for eternity with him. Nothing will encourage your heart more than recognizing our true hope. Our best life is still to come. Oh, come Lord Jesus come!