

## American Gospel: REVIEW of chapters 1 - 7

**Learning Communities:** 1. deeper personal, family-like connections  
2. deeper learning that prep for living strong in anti Christian culture

**Chapter 1** – Progressive vs. True Gospel  
subtle, sounds good but sends in off trajectory, subtly challenges God as Almighty God

**Chapter 2** – Attributes of God vs. Bringing God down to our level  
***Why does it matter that we study this stuff?***

- † What we believe determines what we feel and do – it's why theology is important.
- † What we believe about God determines our relationship with Him, how we live in this world and our future destinies/ rewards.

THEOLOGY is the study of God and how He relates to the world

God's Attributes (not all of them but those highlighted in American Gospel Curriculum)

God is HOLY; separated from sin, other, transcendent

God is JUST: righteous, fair, good, virtuous

God is SOVEREIGN: in control and does all He pleases

God is WRATHFUL: intensely hates ALL sin

SIMPLICITY of God: God is without parts. God's being = ALL His attributes at once in their fullness.

**Chapter 3** – The exclusivity of Christ – He is the ONLY way to reconciliation with God. Those who refuse go to Hell for eternity.

Sin requires **atonement** – punishment to satisfy God's wrath which Jesus did on the Cross.

To choose anything other than Christ is **idolatry**.

There are false teachers who will appeal to human desires rather than God's truth, (2 Tim. 4:3-5), appearing as "servants of righteousness" (2 Cor. 11:13-15)

**Chapter 4** –

**Sin is more about the holiness of God**

sinners are punished in hell continue to sin – sinners don't come to their senses, continuing sense of rebellion, further of hardening of heart

**God is WRATHFUL; He intensely HATES all sin.**

Dualistic vs. non-dualistic thinking – either/or vs. both/and – God is both/and = love and justice

**God is IMMUTABLE; He does not CHANGE.**

**SOLA SCRIPTURA: Scripture Alone** – Bible is God's inspired truth not an evolving, faulty book

**GOD IS JEALOUS** – God is jealous for what is His, not what is ours

**Chapter 5**

God is God and the devil is nothing in comparison

devil doesn't rule in hell nor inflict pain on those who die without Christ

devil did not receive Jesus as ransom – "it was paid to the justice of God" (Paul Washer, p. 48)

devil only has power on earth as permitted by God

God is... † omnipotent - all-powerful  
† omniscient - all-knowing  
† omnipresent - all-present everywhere

God offers to do Romans 8:28 in every circumstance including everything the devil does

**Implications:**

the devil has no real power over us, though tries to convince us he does  
the devil has no real power in temptation or persecution

David deserved to die but appealed to God's mercy and steadfast love, not to what he had done.

David was called a man after God's heart because he was always loyal to God, never turning away from God to worship other gods.

**Chapter 6 – ATONEMENT HISTORY**

Belief in the Bible's teaching on penal substitution has been around since Jesus, not a recent invention

CHRISTUS VICTOR, Answer from back of curriculum, p. 112  
God did not pay satan to redeem us, rather paid Himself

Magnet Theory or Moral influence theory – example of sacrificial love that draws people rather than substitutionary death

**Chapter 7 – COSMIC CHILD ABUSE**

Concept of straw man arguments

Story of father, son, train, bridge – straw man picture

TRINITY – one essence among the 3 personalities.

This flows from the gospel doctrine of the DEITY OF CHRIST

WASHER: all this construct creating contradiction between the persons of the trinity is just the work of the devil

God is not a vindictive monster

Allistair Begg – ***“The Bible is so helpful to us if we just read it. God did not die on the cross so that the Father would love us. Jesus died on the cross BECAUSE the Father loves us.***

Penal substitution is THE doctrine that separates Christianity from every other religion of the world.

It is just THAT important. Otherwise Christianity is ruined. It CANNOT be changed because we would like something different.

Forgiveness always requires some sort of sacrifice

PRODIGAL SON: the father ABSORBED the justice himself – just so, Jesus' death is absorbing the wrath and justice of God Himself