

Some Scriptural Summaries of the Gospel

(from “A Survey of Romans,” John Hepp, Jr.)

This list includes some of the shorter summaries of the gospel and clear references to it. It does not include the lengthy sermon summaries in Acts, such as at Pentecost (Acts 2; see v. 36) and at the “Gentile Pentecost” (Acts 10; see vv. 42–43).

Acts 5:42 “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped preaching and proclaiming the good news that **Jesus is the Messiah.**”

9:22 “Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that **Jesus is the Messiah.**” (This means the same as the summary in James 2:1—and similar summaries—“believers in our **glorious Lord Jesus Messiah.**”)

17:2–3 “As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and...reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the **Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. ‘This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,’** he said.”

18:5 “Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that **Jesus was the Messiah.**”

20:21 Paul reminded “the elders of the church” in Ephesus that “I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must **turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.**”

24:24 “Felix came with his wife Drusilla...He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about **faith in Messiah Jesus.**” (See also 8:12; 18:5, 28; 28:23, 31.)

Romans 1:1–4 God’s “Son, who as to his human nature was **a descendant of David** and who... was declared with power to be the Son of God by his **resurrection from the dead.**”

NOTE: Romans 1:16–17 does not summarize the gospel but introduces the main theme, why the gospel is God’s power for salvation. Likewise, 3:21–26 does not give the gospel’s content but emphasizes that, unlike law, it works by faith. That subject is developed in the next chapters. Romans 2:16 says that the gospel includes judgment by Messiah.

6:3–4 Implies what was preached: “All of us who were baptized into **Messiah Jesus** were baptized into **his death**...in order that, just as **Messiah was raised from the dead**...we too may live a new life.”

10:8–10 “the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, ‘**Jesus is Lord,**’ and believe in your heart that **God raised him from the dead,** you will be saved.”

16:25–26 “Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of **Jesus Messiah**....”

1 Corinthians 1:17–18, 23 “The **cross of Messiah**...the message of **the cross**...we preach **Messiah crucified.**”

2:2 “I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except **Jesus Messiah and him crucified.**” (Cf. 8:11, “weak brother, for whom Messiah died.” 10:16 and 11:26, the Lord’s Supper is participation in Messiah’s blood and body. 6:2–3 reminds believers that they will

judge the world, including angels. 6:9–10 reminds them that they will inherit the coming kingdom.)

3:11 “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is **Jesus Messiah.**”

8:6 “There is but **one God, the Father...**and there is but **one Lord, Jesus Messiah....**”

12:3 “No one can say, ‘**Jesus is Lord,**’ except by the Holy Spirit.”

15:1–11 “I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you....By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you....What I received I passed on to you:...that **Messiah died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that he **was buried**, that he **was raised** on the third day...and that he **appeared** to Peter...to me also....This is what we preach, and this is what you believed.”

NOTE: According to Acts 18:5, the message (gospel) first preached at Corinth was simpler and shorter: “**Jesus is Messiah.**” The two versions can be harmonized by simply emphasizing the fact from the longer version that **it was “Messiah”** who died and rose. The reason for His death was probably not essential to the original message but was a corollary important to 1 Corinthians 15 (see v. 17). Even more important for that chapter was the fact of His resurrection, as proof of our own resurrection. See verses 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, and 23.

Galatians 3:6ff “The Scripture...announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘**All nations will be blessed through you.**’”

2 Timothy 2:8 “Remember **Jesus Messiah, raised from the dead, descended from David.** This is my gospel.”

Titus 2:13–14 “We wait for the blessed hope—the **glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Messiah, who gave himself for us** to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

Hebrews 2:3–5 “This salvation, which was **first announced by the Lord...the world to come,** about which we are speaking.”

1 Peter 1:3 “Father of our Lord Jesus Messiah...has given us new birth into a living hope through the **resurrection of Jesus Messiah** from the dead.”

1:19–21 “redeemed...with the precious **blood of Messiah...chosen...revealed...raised... from the dead and glorified**” (also 2:21, 24, 25; 3:15, 18, 21–22; etc.)

1 John 1:1–3 “**We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard [as recorded in the Gospels], so that you also may have fellowship with us.**”