



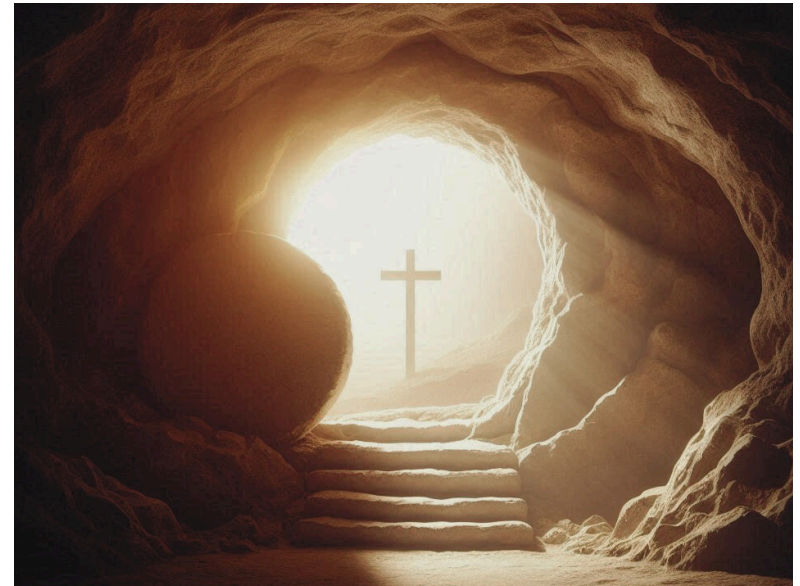


## Doxology - Praise and Worship

- “*Doxology*’ means, literally, “words of praise; expressions of praise.” Grippled in the *Drama* of God’s redemptive purpose, growing in the *Doctrine* of our salvation, God’s Spirit provokes within us praise for His goodness to us in Jesus. ‘*Doxology*’ should never be limited to the hour of worship on Sunday. ‘*Doxology*’ is the heart of praise expressing itself in the whole life being transformed in Jesus.

## Discipleship - How We Live

- God uses *Drama*, *Doctrine* and *Doxology* to form *Disciples*. *Disciples* are life-long followers, students, practical learners. Over the journey of our lives, we are shaped – transformed over time – to become ever more like **Jesus**. Our thoughts are taken captive to His. Pursuing our own glory is overwhelmed by a pulsing desire to bring Him glory. Our lives have meaning because we know who are in **Jesus** – *Disciples*. **Discipleship** is the life of translating who we are and what we know into how we live.



## We Begin With the Gospel Romans 1.1-6

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, Who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through Whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ ...*

- **God's gospel is the *dramatic* story about His Son:** promised through His prophets, descended from David according to the flesh and declared in power by the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection.
- **God's gospel is taught through precious *doctrine*.** The drama of the gospel shows how Jesus dies and was raised on the third day. The doctrine of the gospel teaches Jesus died for our sin and was raised for our justification. Doctrine teaches what drama shows.
- **God's gospel provokes continual "praise" - *doxology*!** Paul summarizes the doctrinal teaching of Romans by exclaiming: "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Ro. 11.36)
- **God's gospel is lived in *discipleship*.** Being gripped by the gospel necessarily changes our lives. Our hearts are made alive. Our minds are transformed. Our desires are redirected. Our behavior is disciplined towards glory to God and service to others.

In our journey together, we will learn more about Who God is. We will move through the lowlands of His Law and the highlands of His Grace. We will learn the trail markers of His Covenant. We will bask in the warmth of God's goodness. We will tremble in the darkness of God's wrath. We will stumble with how we are to journey with each other in community. We will grow in confidence when our path is clearly, brightly lit by Scripture. We will develop humility and endurance when our path is unclear. In hope, we will anticipate the glorious goal of our life-long journey ... eternity with God!

But what must always be central is ... **Jesus**.

We are not Christians for the purpose of knowing more about the Bible than the next person. Neither are we Christians because we want more friends or because we need more religious structure in our disordered lives.

***Jesus defines who we are and how we live.***

## The 4 "D's"

Like a compass has 4 points - North, South, East & West - this series will have 4 "D's":

### Drama - The Big Story

- Though containing 66 individual "books", spread across time and written from prose to poetry to prophecy, Scripture tells one "Big Story". From beginning of Scripture to its end, **Jesus** is the Alpha and the Omega. Everything we learn about God, people, the shaping of world events and the attention given to a single person: all of it is to be found within the unfolding *Drama* of **Jesus**.

### Doctrine - What We Believe

- If '*Drama*' places us within the action - *the verbs* - of God's redemptive purpose in **Jesus**, then '*Doctrine*' teaches us the content - *the nouns* - of application. What does it mean that we are sinners and **Jesus** is the Savior? What does Covenant mean and how is it applied to community? What is Salvation? Sanctification? Being 'born again'? What kind of future do we have in Jesus? Our opening reading from Romans 1 ... is '*Doctrine*', teaching us content about **Jesus**.