1. **Salvation** is everything Jesus purchased for us through the atonement.

   “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16)

   A. *Sozo*—save—is an all-inclusive word that summarizes everything that Christ provided for us through His death, burial, and resurrection.

   B. It’s forgiveness of sins, healing, deliverance, and prosperity.

   “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save [sozo] the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him” (James 5:14-15, brackets mine).

   C. Salvation is a package deal.

2. When the Scripture says that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, it’s not just talking about how to be born again and have your sins forgiven.

   A. It also means that the Gospel—the grace of God—is the power of God unto healing, unto deliverance, unto prosperity—unto everything that comes to us as a result of being born again.

   B. It’s talking about our relationship with God.

   C. It’s how we relate to God based on grace (what Jesus did) instead of performance (what we do).

3. Satan tries to get us to earn the things of God, to make ourselves our savior, to put our faith in what we’ve done instead of faith in Christ as our only means of receiving from God.

   A. Instead of coming right out and telling people that God doesn’t heal (prosper, deliver) today, Satan deceives them into thinking that they must do something in order to earn God’s provision.

   B. Instead of relating to and receiving from God based on His grace, goodness, and mercy, they try to earn God’s gift through human effort.

   C. Most people believe that God moves in their lives proportional to their performance.
D. This is what Paul was preaching against.

4. Paul came along and talked about God’s goodness and grace.

   A. It’s the goodness of God that leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4).
   
   B. It’s the Gospel that has power in it.
   
   C. Since most people relate to God based on fear instead of love, no doubt the immediate response of those Paul was writing to would have been, “But you can’t do this! People have to know how ungodly they are. How will they turn from their sin unless they understand God’s wrath?”
   
5. God’s wrath has already been revealed intuitively inside of every person.

   “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them” (Rom. 1:18-19, brackets mine).

   A. Each individual has within them an intuitive knowledge of God’s wrath against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.
   
   B. In their hearts, people already know that they aren’t God, but sinners in need of salvation.
   
   C. Even the people who have lived in the most remote parts of the earth and have never had anyone preach the Gospel to them will be accountable to God when they stand before Him someday in eternity.

   “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20).

   D. Because they had this intuitive knowledge that there is a God and they’re separated from Him and in need of salvation, they’ll be “without excuse.”

6. For the rest of Romans, chapter 1, Paul began explaining how these people—who have this intuitive knowledge of God’s wrath—end up living the way they do.

   “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened” (Rom. 1:21, brackets mine).

   A. Once their hearts became hardened toward the things of God, in their foolishness (verse 22), they worshiped animals (verse 23), dishonored their bodies (verse 24), and became idolaters (verse 25).
B. Because of this, God gave them up to “vile affections” (verse 26) and a “reprobate mind” (verse 28).

7. The point is that you don’t have to literally bombard people with their sin and the fact that they are sinners on their way to hell.

A. You may need to spend some time on that issue in order to make your point and strike that chord in their hearts, but not like the legalistic Jewish approach that condemned people and put many restrictions and bondages on them.

B. It’s the Gospel—the nearly-too-good-to-be-true news that God has provided. It’s salvation for us by grace that empowers men to receive the forgiveness of their sins, the healing of their bodies, the deliverance from Satan’s oppression, and whatever else they need.
1. According to Romans 1:16, what is the power of God unto salvation?

2. Who can receive it?

3. In James 5:14, whose responsibility is it to call for the elders of the church?

4. Once they’re called, what should the elders do?

5. The prayer of faith shall [what Greek word] the sick?

6. Besides “save,” how else could this Greek word be rendered in verse 15?

7. According to Romans 2:4, what does the knowledge of God’s goodness lead us to?

8. According to Romans 1:18-19, is the wrath of God already revealed, not yet revealed, or soon to be revealed?

9. In Romans 1:20, what are clearly seen?

10. What is understood by the things He made?

11. How does that leave us?

12. Put the following progressive steps away from God in their biblical order, according to Romans 1:21-28.
   A. In their foolishness, they worshiped animals, dishonored their bodies, and became idolaters.
   B. God gave them up to vile affections and a reprobate mind.
   C. They didn’t glorify God and were unthankful.
   D. Their imaginations became vain and their hearts were darkened.
“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16).

“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him” (James 5:14-15).

“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” (Rom. 2:4).

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things” (Rom. 1:18-23).

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient” (Rom. 1:24-28).