

THE GOSPEL AS A PRISM

Posted by Bob Young

In late 2021, I made notes after reading an article from Maurie Daigneau, "Understanding the communicator's intended meaning." My reason for making notes was not related to the title of the original article. What caught my attention was the idea that the gospel can serve as a prism to help one see Jesus more clearly. I was intrigued and challenged by the possible applications. I share in the hope that you too will find encouragement and a commitment to continue to grow in the gospel.

Most are familiar with the New Testament use of the concept of "light." Jesus is the light of the world. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that his listeners are the light of the world. Christians are to walk in light (Eph. 5:8, 1 John 1:6-10). Daigneau suggests that the gospel, when understood correctly, serves as a prism.

To appreciate this concept, think about how a prism works. What does a prism do? A prism clarifies the component colors of light, allowing us to see the separate beauty of each color. The gospel makes known various truths about God and about Jesus. A detailed, point by point, understanding of the gospel is critical. The gospel clarifies the story of the "Light of the World," Jesus, by helping us see details, by helping us see specific aspects of what God has purposed to accomplish in sending his Son.

Daigneau writes, "I did not have that understanding during the early years of my faith-life journey, and it is one that I now hold to dearly. I ask you to consider temporarily closing your current 'Gospel Understanding' file and opening a new one." Do not too quickly discard the unique dynamic God has inserted into the "Jesus Story" by giving us four differing accounts. The gospel is a prism, clarifying for us various components of the Light. When the prism lets you see something you have never seen before, relish the moment and make a note. When you contemplate the Light through the prism, you may have to confront things difficult to understand. The gospel helps us understand why the Bereans in Acts 17 were constantly searching the Scriptures to verify and clarify the Light, "to see whether these things are true." The goal is understanding. Daigneau quotes Albert Einstein, "Any fool can know. The point is to understand."

The gospel of Jesus is God's communication about the Light. Nothing is more important than knowing and understanding the truth correctly, as God has revealed it, for we will ultimately be judged by it. The prism of the gospel helps us understand God's communication, the Word, the Logos, as God intended, according to God's wisdom, not according to the analysis and thinking of human wisdom.