

# Gospel-Centered Living

For I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, for it is the power of God  
for **salvation** to everyone who believes...

Romans 1:16

# Salvation

Justification

*We have been saved (Eph 2:8)*



Saved from the penalty of sin

Sanctification

*We are being saved (1 Cor. 1:18)*



Saved from the power of sin

Glorification

*We will be saved (1 Pet 1:5)*



Saved from the presence of sin

**Gospel**



For I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, for it is the power of God for **salvation** to everyone who believes...

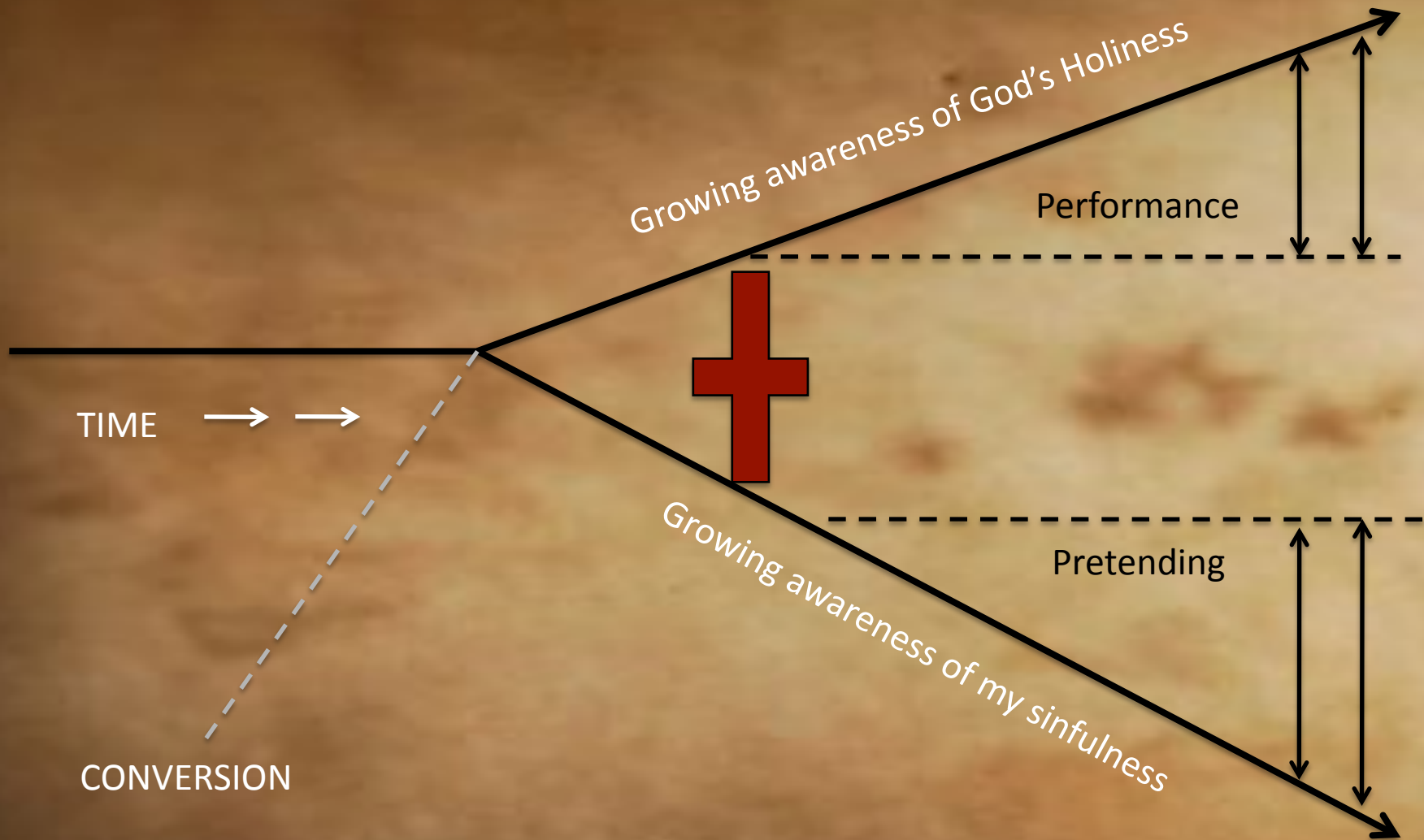
Romans 1:16

- ❖ The gospel is the power of God for salvation (past, present, future) not just conversion.
- ❖ Therefore, repentance and faith in the gospel is the way you begin Christian life (justification), continue in Christian life (sanctification), and enter eternal Christian life (glorification).

*“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’...He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” Martin Luther*

- ❖ The gospel is not the ABC's of Christianity but the A thru Z! It's not just the front door, but the path as well.

# Shrinking the Gospel



\* Adapted from *Gospel Centered Life*

# Performing & Pretending

*What do you count on to give you a sense of “personal credibility” (validity, acceptance, good standing)?*

Your answer to this question will often reveal something (besides Jesus) in which you find righteousness. When we are not firmly rooted in the gospel, we rely on these false sources of righteousness to build our reputation and give us a sense of worth and value.

*They did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own (Rom 10:3)*

**JOB RIGHTEOUSNESS:** I’m a hard worker, so God will reward me.

**FAMILY RIGHTEOUSNESS:** Because I “do things right” as a parent, I’m more godly than parents who can’t control their kids.

**THEOLOGICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS:** I have good theology. God prefers me over those who have bad theology.

**INTELLECTUAL RIGHTEOUSNESS:** I am better read, more articulate, and more culturally savvy than others, which obviously makes me superior.

# Performing & Pretending

*What do you count on to give you a sense of “personal credibility” (validity, acceptance, good standing)?*

**SCHEDULE RIGHTEOUSNESS:** I am self-disciplined and rigorous in my time management, which makes me more mature than others.

**FLEXIBILITY RIGHTEOUSNESS:** In a world that’s busy, I’m flexible and relaxed. I always make time for others. Shame on those who don’t!

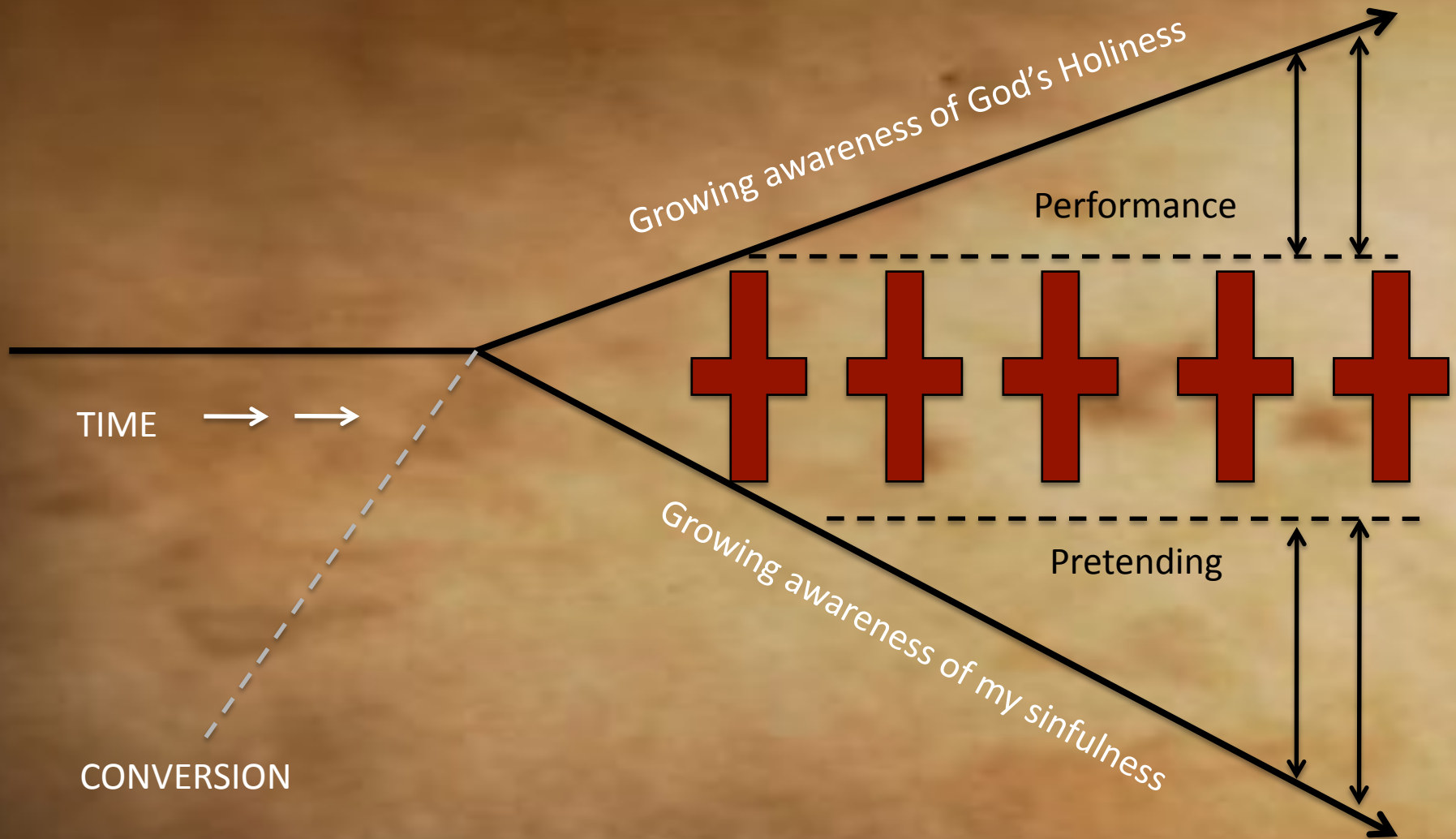
**MERCY RIGHTEOUSNESS:** I care about the poor and disadvantaged the way everyone else should.

**POLITICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS:** If you really love God, you’ll vote for my candidate.

**LEGALISTIC RIGHTEOUSNESS:** I don’t drink, smoke, or curse, or hang around those who do. Too many Christians just aren’t concerned about holiness these days.

**FINANCIAL RIGHTEOUSNESS:** I manage money wisely and stay out of debt. I’m not like those materialistic Christians who can’t control their spending.

# Shrinking the Gospel



\* Adapted from *Gospel Centered Life*

# Exposing Unbelief & Idolatry

Our surface sins are only symptoms of a deeper problem. Underneath every external sin is a heart idol—a false god that has eclipsed the true God in our thoughts or affections. The key to gospel-driven transformation is learning to repent of the “sin beneath the sin”—the deeply rooted idolatry and unbelief that drive our more visible sins.

**Example: Gossip » Why do we gossip?**

**(What are we looking for that we should be finding in God?) Here are some of common heart idols that can manifest themselves in the surface sin of gossip.**

<b>The idol of approval »</b>	<b>I want the approval of the people I’m talking to</b>
<b>The idol of control »</b>	<b>Using gossip as a way to manipulate/control others</b>
<b>The idol of reputation »</b>	<b>I want to feel important, so I cut someone else down</b>
<b>The idol of success »</b>	<b>Someone is succeeding, and I’m not, so I gossip about him</b>
<b>The idol of security »</b>	<b>Talking about others masks my own insecurity</b>
<b>The idol of pleasure »</b>	<b>Someone else is enjoying life, and I’m not, so I attack her</b>
<b>The idol of knowledge »</b>	<b>Talking about people is a way of showing I know more</b>
<b>The idol of recognition »</b>	<b>Talking about others gets people to notice me</b>
<b>The idol of respect »</b>	<b>He disrespected me, so I’m going to disrespect him</b>

# Exposing Unbelief & Idolatry

All these idols are false saviors promoting false gospels. Every one of these things—approval, control, reputation, success, security, pleasure, knowledge, recognition, respect—is something we already have in Jesus because of the gospel! But when we are not living in light of the gospel, we turn to these idols to give us what only Jesus can truly give us.

# Applying the Gospel to our Hearts

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

Proverbs 4:23

## What is the sin?

Lie

Need to succeed/  
Frustrated with failure

Failure to be generous

## Expose sin behind the sin

You must gain human approval  
in order to be accepted and  
establish your worth

You must gain an identity  
through your performance and  
establish your worth

You must find security in your  
money

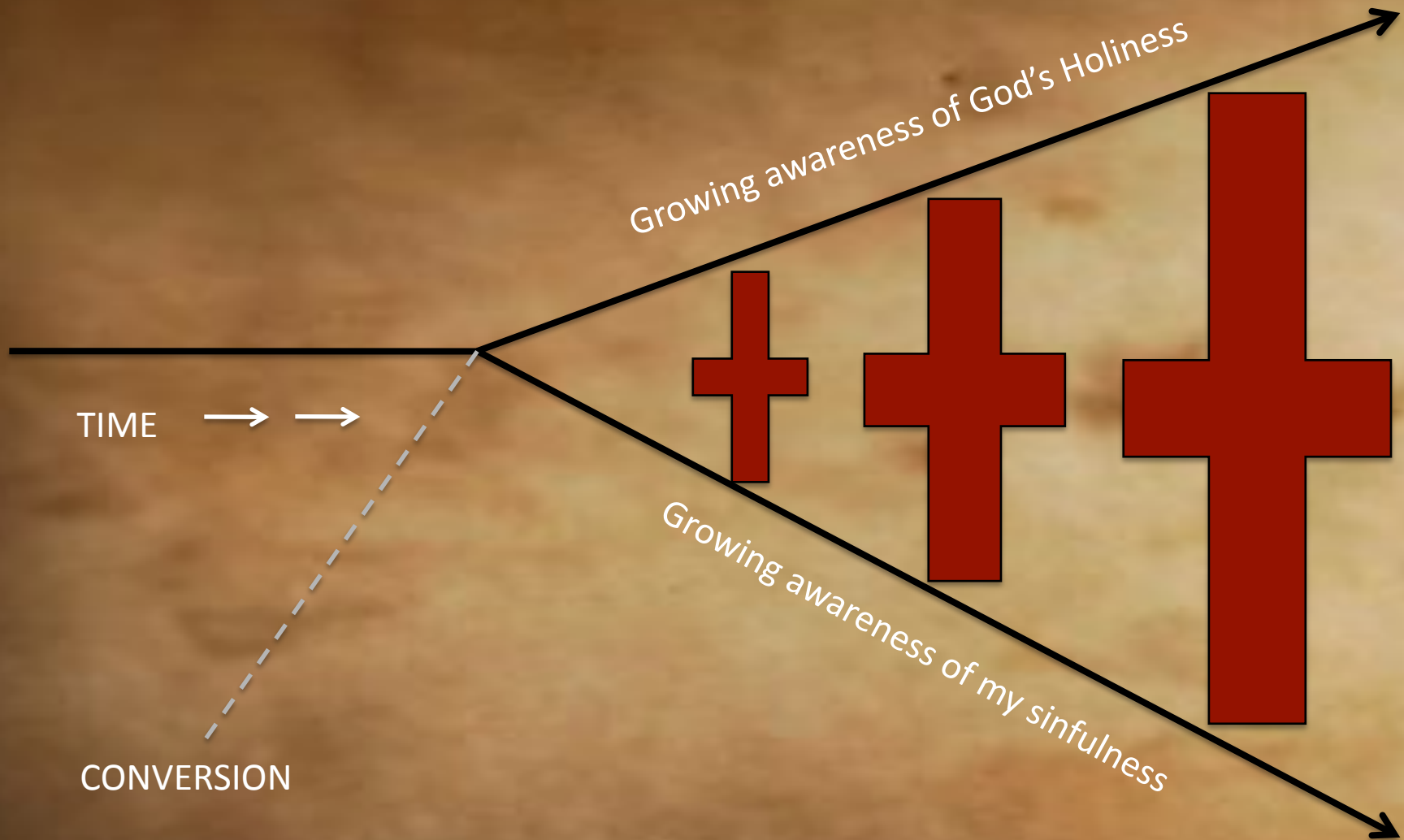
## Preach the Gospel to Yourself

**God has accepted you through  
Jesus and you don't need to be a  
slave to human approval**

**God has given you an identity  
through the finished work of Jesus  
and His performance is enough**

**God provided Jesus who became  
poor so you might become rich  
and will give you all things**

# Growing in the Gospel



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# Living the Gospel-Centered Life

**Gospel    Community    Mission**