Course: Gospels & Acts
Series: The Gospels
Discussion Forum One: Introduction to the Gospels

1. Why did the gospel writers think it was important to record these facts in such careful literary accounts?
   a. Greg Perry – Covenant Theological Seminary (01:05)

2. Are the Gospels only valuable because they contain facts about Jesus, or is it also important to consider their literary aspects?
   a. Simon Vibert – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (02:15)

3. Why is it important to identify and consider the genre of the Gospels?
   a. Richard Bauckham – University of St. Andrews (03:40)

4. Can we be certain that Jesus was a real, historical person?
   a. Steven Cowan – Birmingham Theological Seminary (06:25)
   b. Ben Witherington III – Asbury Theological Seminary (09:10)

5. How does the Holy Spirit's inspiration impact the Gospel's historical reliability?
   a. Steven Tsoukalas – Wesley Biblical Seminary (10:45)

6. How should Evangelicals respond to the charge that the Gospels are based on faulty oral traditions?
   a. Richard Bauckham – University of St. Andrews (14:00)

7. Are the opinions of modern historians more reliable than the gospel accounts?
   a. Richard Bauckham – University of St. Andrews (20:50)

8. Why should the failures and shortcomings of the disciples increase our confidence in the gospel accounts?
   a. Dan Doriani – Central Presbyterian Church, Clayton, MO (25:40)
   b. Mark Strauss – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (29:30)

9. How can extra-biblical accounts confirm the reliability of the Gospels?
   a. David Redelings – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (31:45)

10. How can we discuss the historical reliability of the Gospels with skeptics and unbelievers?
    a. Dan Doriani – Central Presbyterian Church, Clayton, MO (37:00)
11. Why are the similarities and differences between the Synoptic Gospels considered problematic?
   a. Jonathan Pennington – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (44:35)

12. What's the value in having multiple gospels that say essentially the same thing?
   a. David Redelings – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (47:05)
   b. Jonathan Pennington – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (48:40)
   c. R. Albert Mohler, Jr. – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (50:45)

13. Why is John’s gospel so different from the Synoptic Gospels?
   a. Mark Strauss – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (52:45)

14. Should the lack of rigorous chronology in the Gospels pose a problem for modern readers?
   a. David Bauer – Asbury Theological Seminary (55:20)
   b. Peter Walker – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (57:15)
   c. Mark Strauss – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (58:20)
   d. Steven Cowan – Birmingham Theological Seminary (59:20)

15. Do the differences between the Gospels indicate that their authors disagreed with each other?
   a. Ben Witherington III – Asbury Theological Seminary (1:01:35)

16. What did the Jews in Jesus’ day expect the Messiah to do, and how did Jesus compare to those expectations?
   a. David Bauer – Asbury Theological Seminary (1:03:25)
   b. Peter Walker – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (1:06:05)

17. Why did the gospel writers find it so remarkable that Peter specifically confessed Jesus to be the Christ?
   a. Mark Strauss – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (1:08:00)

18. Why did the Messiah have to descend from David?
   a. Stephen Wellum – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1:10:10)
   b. Richard L. Pratt, Jr. – Third Millennium Ministries (1:11:30)
19. How can we reconcile Jesus' kingship with his commitment to suffering and dying?
   a. Simon Vibert – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (1:12:55)

20. Do the Gospels teach that Jesus is fully God?
   a. Jeffrey Lowman – Birmingham Theological Seminary (1:14:15)
   b. Steven Cowan – Birmingham Theological Seminary (1:15:25)

21. What was the central focus of the gospel that Jesus proclaimed?
   a. Simon Vibert – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (1:18:35)
   b. Jonathan Pennington – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1:19:15)
   c. Peter Walker – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (1:21:45)

22. What are some ways that Jesus taught implicitly about the kingdom of God?
   a. Wai-yee Ng – China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong (1:24:05)

23. How might we summarize Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God?
   a. David Bauer – Asbury Theological Seminary (1:25:35)
   b. Dan Doriani – Central Presbyterian Church, Clayton, MO (1:29:25)