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THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE IN SEVEN WORDS

In a world of sound bites and twitter, I worry about what is lost when we reduce communication to the smallest spaces. Our lives are too wonderfully complex and nuanced to be chopped up like that.

But the challenge to be concise can also bring focus and clarity. That's why, several years ago, *Christian Century* writer Steve Thorngate invited people to write the gospel in just seven words. Here are some of their answers.

Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber wrote, "We are who God says we are: the forgiven, broken and blessed children of God; the ones to whom God draws near. Nothing else gets to tell us who we are."

Scott Cairns: "Christ's Humanity Occasions Our Divinity" His message draws on the fourth century Christians who said that God became human in order that we humans could become divine.

Stephanie Paulsell, of Harvard Divinity School, only used four words: "To Dwell in Possibility." She explained: "When my daughter was confirmed in the Christian faith last spring, I gave her Emily Dickinson's poem, "I dwell in Possibility." I wanted her to remember that, in God's house—"More numerous of Windows—/Superior—for Doors"—there is room to turn and be changed, to choose mercy over revenge, to give away everything we have and follow Jesus. Within God's possibility, even death is not the last thing to be said about us."

What words would you choose?

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister