

## **WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?**

The word “Gospel” is the translation of the Greek noun “euangelion” meaning “Good News.” This Good News is not about one getting married, or one getting a job or one buying a new vehicle or a house. It is the good news of Christ Jesus.

❖ **Luke 2:10**, And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

### **PART ONE: What the Gospel is NOT**

1. The Gospel is not “Believe in Jesus”
  - People many believe in Jesus for many things.
  - Faith is a response to the Gospel, but faith is not the gospel.
2. The Gospel is not about taking baptism.
3. The Gospel is not about keeping moral commandments
  - “The Great Commandment” is not the Gospel
4. The Gospel is not about doing religious activities (church, prayer, Bible study, giving)
5. The Gospel is not about doing good works (helping the poor and needy)
6. The Gospel is not about healing
7. The Gospel is not about material blessings
8. The Gospel is not about receiving peace in heart
9. The Gospel is not about your personal testimony (what the Lord had done in your life)
10. The Gospel is not about just going to heaven

**Comment:** The above things may be good, but they are not the gospel.

❖ **Psalm 11:3**, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

**Context:** There are the words of the advisers of David. The suggested that when the principles of truth, righteousness and justice are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

**Similarly:** When the foundations of the gospel are destroyed, what can Christianity do? Gospel is the foundation of Christianity.

- ❖ **Galatians 1:8-9**, “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

## **PART TWO: What IS the Gospel**

**The Gospel in a Nutshell:** The Gospel is about what God accomplished through Christ Jesus for sinners.

### **I. GOD**

#### **a. God is the Creator**

- ❖ **Genesis 1:1**, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
- ❖ **Jeremiah 10:11-12**, Thus shall you say to them: “The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.” It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.”
- ❖ **Isaiah 45: 12, 18, 22**, “(v.12) I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host...(v.18) For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the Lord, and there is no other... (v.22) Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”

#### **b. God is Loving (kindly concern)**

- ❖ **Psalm 103:8**, “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”
- ❖ **I John 4:8**, “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

❖ **Psalm 100:5**, “For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

**c. God is holy (high and above, and separated from all evil)**

❖ **Psalm 99:2-5**, “The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he! The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

❖ **Habakkuk 1:13**, “You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong...”

❖ **Psalm 5:4-5**, “For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.”

## **2. MAN**

**a. Man is a sinner**

❖ **Ecclesiastes 7:29**, “God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.”

❖ **Romans 5:12**, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”

Man is essentially sinful. Because of sin, this is what man has become, a sickening self-revelation we find particularly in the book of Romans:

- Man has become unrighteous:

*As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10)*

- Man has become worthless:

*“All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” (Rom. 3:12)*

- Man has become godless:

*There is no fear of God before their eyes. (Rom. 3:18)*

- Man has become ungodly:

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **(Rom. 5:6)**

- Man has become a sinner:

*But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)*

- Man has become God's enemy:

*For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Rom. 5:10)*

**b. Man is condemned to God's wrath and eternal punishment because of sin**

- ❖ **Romans 1:18**, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."
- ❖ **Ephesians 5:5-6**, "For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."
- ❖ **Romans 6:23**, "For the wages of sin is death (eternal punishment)"

**c. Man cannot save himself from the consequences of sin**

- ❖ **Ephesians 2:8-9**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And *this is not your own doing*; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

**Comment:** No religious works, no ethical works, no charitable works can save a man from his sins.

- ❖ **Titus 3:5**, "he saved us, *not because of works done by us in righteousness*, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit...."
- ❖ **Matthew 19:25-26**, When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

### 3. **JESUS CHRIST (His physical Death and Resurrection from the dead)**

❖ **1 Corinthians 15:3-9**, For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

#### a. **Jesus Christ is our substitutionary sacrifice**

❖ **Genesis 22:13**, And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son (substitution).

❖ **2 Corinthians 5:21**, “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (NASB)

- **Proverb 17:15**, “He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord.”
- But according to 2 Corinthians 5:21, the Lord Himself took the condemnation on Himself and justified the wicked.
- **C.S.D:** He who in practice committed no sin had taken the position of sin so that we who in practice committed sin might take the position of righteousness.
- **James Smith sums up this great exchange...**
  - Christ takes our sins—that we might take his righteousness!
  - He suffers—that we might go free.
  - He is stripped—that we may be clothed.
  - He is put to death—that we might live.
  - He is made sin—that we might be made righteous.

❖ **Isaiah 53:4-5**, Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” (cf. 1 Pet. 2:24)

**b. The substitutionary sacrifice of Christ manifests the love and the justice of God**

**i. God's Righteousness**

- ❖ **Romans 3:23-26**, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- ❖ **Hebrews 9:21**, “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”

**ii. God's Love**

- ❖ **Romans 5:7-8**, “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- ❖ **John 3:16**, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

**Comment:** Since God is holy and righteous, He must punish sin. Since God is gracious and loving, He desired to save sinners. So, in the death of Christ Jesus, the justice of God was completely satisfied (Rom. 3:25) and the love of God was fully manifested (Rom. 5:8). What a stunning union on the Cross!

**c. Jesus Christ is the only way for man's salvation**

- i. God's forgiveness of our sins is bestowed only through Christ Jesus
  - ❖ **Colossians 1:13**, He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- ii. Our reconciliation to God is only through Christ Jesus
  - ❖ **2 Corinthians 5:18**, “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”
  - ❖ **1 Peter 3:18**, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”

- iii. God's salvation and His free gift of eternal life is given to us only through Christ Jesus
  - ❖ **Acts 4:12**, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
  - ❖ **Romans 6:23**, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
  - ❖ IF THE WAGES OF SIN IS ETERNAL DEATH FOR SINNERS, THEN THE WAGES OF CHRIST'S DEATH IS ETERNAL LIFE FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM.

**The Gospel in a Nutshell:** The Gospel is about what God has accomplished through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus for the salvation of sinners.