

The Gospel

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The Gospel is the good news that salvation exists through our creator. This is salvation **from** death, hell, the grave, the Devil, sin, evil, confusion, ignorance, pain and sorrow. This is salvation from all things that make our lives miserable.

But it is also salvation **into** all things that are good. This includes a place to stay, food, water, eternal life, knowledge, wisdom, purpose, and the presence of God.

I recently heard a radio preacher say that, “the Gospel is not a secret – just accept the Lord Jesus as your personal...”

That is **not** the gospel of the Bible and obviously God’s Gospel **is** a secret from him. So much for pop gospel – As for the Bible – in Psalms 25 verse 14 God says:

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and He will show them His covenant.

If you are interested in finding out what the Gospel is – you would have to study the scriptures. To benefit from knowing what it says you would have to obey what God the Father, His son Jesus, the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament Apostles had to say on the subject.

This could have been a very straight forward process – however the Devil has put a myriad of road blocks in the way. The one thing you should never do is trust anyone else to do your studying for you. You should not believe commentaries or anything else on this subject unless you have verified it for yourself. After all, your very eternal life depends on it.

The Gospel can be broken down into two fundamental parts. The first part is the creation and the fall of man and what Christ has done to redeem

us. Most TV and radio preachers get this part right – after all – it is just a history lesson.

The second part – what we must do to obtain this salvation for ourselves – radio and TV preachers *never* get this right or even approach it.

Why is this?

Satan is not going to spend eternity in heaven and he doesn't want anyone else there either. He has dedicated his existence to destroying everyone's life he can. So he has had men replace Part II of the Gospel with nice sounding cliches or reasonable sounding arguments:

Make a decision for Christ.

Accept the Lord as your personal savior.

Follow Christ.

Have a personal relationship with Christ

But if we listen to God talk on the subject or his Son Jesus we get a totally different picture. A much deeper and a sober picture.

Jesus in John, Chapter 3: verse 5 "...unless a man is born again of the **water** and of the **spirit** he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." These two events are major milestones in a persons life and cannot be explained by a simple cliché.

Beside the two things mentioned above – how many things does a person have to do in order to obey the Gospel? We must rely on God to help us complete the list – but here are a few others.

He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be saved. Mark 16: 16

"...except ye **repent**, ye will all likewise perish." Luke 13: 3

"My people perish from a lack of knowledge Hosea, Chapter 4: 6

"*Take my yoke upon you and **learn** of me...*" Matthew, Chapter 11:

So up to this point we have:

Learning about Jesus

Believing in Jesus

Repenting of our Sins

Being baptized

Being born again of the water

Being born again of the spirit

The problem is; we haven't even covered what being born again of the the water or the spirit entails – according to the scripture.

In the Old Testament the prophet, Joel, Chapter 2 verse: 32 quotes God the Father saying:

In the last days, saith I AM, “that whosoever is named with my name shall be saved...”

So, God expects us to be named with his name – when does this occur?

In Isaiah, Chapter 28: verse 11 God says, ***“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, this is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing...”***

The Apostle Paul said, ***“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left to us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it”*** Hebrews, Chapter 4 Verse: 1

Now we must also enter into God's rest – how is this accomplished?

Can an ordinary man woman or child figure out this puzzle?

This is why the scripture has said, ***“Study and show yourself approved before God rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”***

and

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

Does this sound like anything that you have heard on the radio or the TV?

Your salvation is a personal matter that takes your time and attention – and no mere reciting of a few words that are not even from the Bible or not in proper context from the Bible – will save you.

Now that we have described the problem – what is the solution?

Fortunately God said in Ephesians, Chapter 4 verse: 11 ***And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.***

However, there are a lot of people out there that claim one or more of these titles – but do they have the truth? – the real message from God?

In Isaiah Chapter: 45, verse 13 God says: ***I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the I AM of hosts.***

A real man of God would not charge admission for the Gospel.

In Matthew Chapter 10 verse 8, Jesus, talking to his disciples, says: ***“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.***

A preacher faithful to God’s word would tell you the truth even if it cause him to be ostracized, mistreated and unpopular among men.

His loyalty would only be to God and not to an income, lifestyle, acceptance in the community etc. Many of God’s prophets were rejected even as it says of Jesus in Isaiah: Chapter 53 verse 3. ***He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and we***

hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

The Spirit of the Lord today does not preach a prosperity Gospel for this world. This age will be soon over and no one will take anything with them out of it.

The Apostle Paul talking about false teachers in 1st Timothy Chapter 6 verse 8 says,

Perverse disputing of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

Well known celebrity preachers cannot and will not lead you to heaven

The Answer

We have covered some of the basic scriptures having to do with the gospel. Now let's connect the dots. The Apostle Peter was given the keys to the Kingdom of God by Jesus. So the real church was started by him on the day of Pentecost. Jesus said to Peter about salvation whatever you say – heaven will back you up.

When asked what should we do to be saved Peter gave a good explanation which is recorded in the Bible in the Book of Acts of the Apostles Chapter 2. Read the whole Chapter and you get a sense of the real gospel that God honors. Accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior is not mentioned. But here is a summary:

Starting on the path with God.

1. After giving an adequate background history of the Jews, Peter informed the crowd that Jesus was the Messiah.
2. If they believed that Jesus died for their sins and was the son of God then:
3. They repented for their sins – that is every thing they had done wrong in their whole lives.
4. After they believed and repented of their sins they were baptized by full immersion in the water while being given the name of God (I AM) though his Son's name Jesus (I AM IS BECOME SALVATION). They were all surnamed Jesus.
5. When the Holy Spirit fell on the new believers they spoke in another language praising God.

This is what happened on the first day of the church and it still happens today in exactly the same way. Maybe now you can see why TV evangelists don't talk about the real Gospel – it's just too messy and inconvenient. In addition they would have to depend on God to Baptize with the Holy Spirit and wait on God for His timing.