

The Gospel the ONLY Means of Salvation

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The GOSPEL of Grace Came by the Apostle Paul

The Gospel of Grace (New Testament) was given to us by Paul the Apostle and not the other Apostles. God began to work with the Gentiles (few Jews) through Grace by Revealing Himself and His message to this stubborn Jew who set out to destroy the Newly Born Christian Church!

In the day when **God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.** (Rom. 2:16)

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: (Rom. 16:25,26)

But none of these things move me, **neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.** (Acts 20:24)

We are saved by the Gospel of TRUTH, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Notice, it's the Gospel of TRUTH by which we can judge All Lies!

*Notice there is Only One Gospel. **ONLY ONE TRUTH!***

For **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;** to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
(Rom. 1:16)

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye **heard the word of truth**, the **gospel of your salvation**: in whom also **after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**: (Eph. 1:13)

Endeavouring to **keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**. There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in **one hope of your calling**; **One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.** (Eph. 4:3-6)

What Is The GOSPEL? Do You Know?

Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you**, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain**. For I delivered unto you first of all **that which I also received**, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures**: (1 Cor. 15:1-4)

How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? (Heb. 10:29) NASB

Notice; Paul received the GOSPEL from Jesus Himself

*This was not a Pentecostal gospel, not a Baptist gospel, not a Methodist gospel, not a Reformed gospel, not a Catholic gospel, etc... this was the Gospel of **TRUTH and GRACE** which Paul received from the Lord Himself; Not Traditions of Men!*

For I would have you know, brothers and sisters, that **the gospel which was preached by me is not of human invention**. For **I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it**, but **I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ**.

(Gal. 1:11,12) NASB

WHY IS THE GOSPEL SO IMPORTANT?

The Gospel is the ONLY Power in the Universe that can cleanse us from Sin. Sin is the Only thing that blocks us from Heaven. God's Kingdom (Heaven) is perfect, sin cannot exist there. God is so HOLY that sin would instantly be destroyed in His presence. Since God is Holy and Just He must judge Sin. God is not an old sleeping grandfather sitting in Heaven overlooking sin because He's too old to do anything about it! He will judge every sin you and I have ever committed and He's got video records to prove it. We are all guilty of Sin and are not welcomed in Heaven. Without Jesus we all would be in Hell!

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: **the soul that sinneth, it shall die**. (Ezek. 18:4)

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God: (Rom. 3:23)

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Is. 64:6)

*The GOSPEL is Founded on the CROSS of JESUS CHRIST alone! We must understand that God's Grace, and the Holy Spirit can ONLY be received by Faith in Blood of Jesus (The CROSS) God's payment for Sin. **There is No other way!** The GRACE of GOD can Only be received **by receiving** the LORD JESUS Christ!*

The CROSS is the Foundation of the GOSPEL

*The only way to the Father is **Jesus**, the only way to Jesus is **through the Cross** (the alter of God). Remember the Cross is not a piece of jewelry to adorn your appearance, it was a place of sacrifice and suffering where God the Father sacrificed His only Son for our sin! If God knew of a way to pay for man's sin other than Crucifying His Only Son He certainly would have done it! (Rom. 6:23). This Clearly reminds us that our sin carries a heavy price: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life **in Christ Jesus** our Lord. The Cross is not a religion made by men, but a Blood Covenant between God and man.*

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. **He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.** (Col. 1:19,20) NLT

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save **Jesus Christ**, and **him crucified**. (1 Cor. 2:2)

But God forbid that I should glory, save **in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom **the world is crucified unto me**, and **I unto the world**. (Gal. 6:14)

*Notice what the scripture says; Paul's **Glory is in the CROSS**; not the Resurrection, nor the Miracles that Jesus did:*

For **the life of the body is in its blood**. **I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you**, making you right with the LORD. **It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible.** (Lev. 17:11) NLT

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. (Rom. 3:24,25)

Paul and John Warn us of the Perversion of the Gospel

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed (*damned to Hell*). As we said before, so say I now again, **If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.** For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? **for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.** (Gal. 1:6-10)

If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. (2 John 10,11)

Paul warn's us about the false gospels that are being spread in order to deceive the people.

1. False gospel of Wealth;

Which states that wealth is a sign from God that you are holy and blessed. Your wealth is a sign of your holiness. Totally contradicts the Bible (Jam. 2).

2. False gospel of Pleasure;

Which states that happiness is a sure sign that you are blessed and God is with you. Totally contradicts the Bible. Yes God shall supply all your needs, for His Glory not yours. God lets you enjoy food but warned you about gluttony. Take up your Cross and follow me! (Matt. 16:24-26)

3. False gospel of Social Justice;

Which looks at everyone else's Sin, but refuses to look at their own. They're deceived into thinking their right and the Bible is wrong. Calling wrong right and right wrong. (Is. 5:20-24)

4. False gospel of Globalism;

Which states we are all God's children, we are all going to heaven. All religions and all gods lead to heaven. You can live the way you want to and still go to heaven. These are lies from the pit of hell itself. The scriptures declare that only a few people will enter into heaven, and most will end up in hell. (Matt. 7:13-29)

5. False gospel of the Seeker Sensitive Churches;

Where God's Truth is not proclaimed or cherished. The ministers take a church census and find out what the congregation wants to hear. That's the doctrine they teach and preach. Social pleasure is their goal, they say; "lets soften this Jesus rhetoric (the Bible) and let's all get along like one big happy family." (Psa. 92:5-7 & Prov. 1:22-33)

6. False gospel of Catholicism;

Here is where the false doctrines of devils came into the church! Sale of indulgences; holy water; purgatory; mass in Latin; prayer to Mary, and the saints; adoration of images; kissing the feet of the pope; canonization of the deceased; celibacy of the priests; transubstantiation; the infallibility of the pope: They mentioned Jesus Christ and God but only in name, not in deeds and doctrine.

False Doctrines (heresies) in the Early Church

1. JEWISH LEGALISM - a perceived or actual emphasis on strict adherence to Jewish law and religious rules, often seen as a means of achieving righteousness or spiritual merit; today it refers to the belief that salvation or right standing with God is earned through strict adherence to rules and regulations, rather than through faith and grace.

2. ASCETIC PRACTICES - involve the voluntary denial of worldly pleasures and comforts, often undertaken for spiritual or religious reasons, with the goal of achieving a higher state of awareness or closeness to a higher power. Commonly used in religious and spiritual contexts. It is commonly associated with Indian religions, such as Buddhism and Hinduism, but it has been (and often still is) practiced in a wide range of world religions. Paul defines 'asceticism' as 'severity to the body,' and that practice being 'of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh!'

3. GNOSTIC PRACTICES - stemming from the belief in "gnosis" (special knowledge), involve a diverse set of religious and philosophical movements;

beliefs, generally held that salvation comes through esoteric knowledge and that the material world is flawed or evil (the body), created by an imperfect deity, distinct from the supreme, transcendent God. Gnostics believed in a fundamental opposition between the spiritual and material realms, with the material world seen as flawed or evil, and the spiritual world as the true and good reality. Instead of pointing to Christ, Gnosticism proclaims that salvation comes from inside, finding your true identity within. It denies the goodness of the Creator and the glory of his creation. It denies the Incarnation, the resurrection and the need for redemption.

Next, Paul Warns Us of Neglecting the Gospel

Therefore **we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip** (*drift away*). For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; **How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.** (Heb. 2:1-3)

Notice carefully what Paul said; he didn't say reject the Gospel, he said neglect the Gospel. Neglect means you; invalidate, nullify, render null and void, render invalid, make ineffective, neutralize, cancel (out): As believers we would never reject the Cross. But because of life's difficulties and afflictions one can easily neglect the Gospel (our Great Salvation).

Therefore **we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip** (*drift away*).

It's the idea of a piece of drift wood on the shore that is slowly taken out by the tide into the ocean. By the time you realize that drift wood is gone, it is miles away from the shore line. If we are not careful we can let this Gospel (our Great Salvation) slip away from us and drift away. Jesus spoke about leaving your first Love. Notice what He said; "He did not say you lost your first Love, He said you Left your first Love!

The Message of THE CROSS (By Jimmy Swaggart)

Jesus Christ is the New Covenant. *This means that He doesn't merely have the New Covenant or merely proclaim the New Covenant, but rather **is the New Covenant**. The meaning of this Covenant was given to the Apostle Paul, the meaning of which is the Cross of Christ, which Paul gave to us in his 14 Epistles. **The Cross of Christ is the Gospel.** This means that it does not merely contain the Gospel but, in fact, is the Gospel.*

Paul said; “**Christ sent me not to baptize**, but **to preach the Gospel**: not with wisdom of words, **lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect**.” (1 Cor. 1:17)

*In this one Scripture we are plainly and clearly told exactly what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is. **It is the Cross of Christ**. The New Covenant is different than any other Covenant which God has ever made with humanity. It is different in the fact that it cannot fail. While it is between God and man as all other Covenants made by God, still, it cannot fail. **The reason it cannot fail is because it is all in Christ. Christ is both God and Man**, so He fills both roles. Man may accept the Covenant, or he may reject the Covenant, but **that does not affect the Covenant**. **Because it is in Christ**, Paul could call it, and rightly so, “**The Everlasting Covenant**.”*
(Heb. 13:20)

Man may fail and, in fact, will fail, but The Man Jesus Christ cannot fail, because, He is GOD in a Human body. One might say and be Scripturally correct that The Message Of The Cross Is The New Covenant. It is the most complex Work ever carried out by God and, at the same time, the most simple. We have tried to bring this great Work under four headings. They are:

- 1. **Jesus Christ is the Source of all things** that we receive from God (Jn. 1:1,14,29; 14:6,20; Col. 2:10-15)*
- 2. **The Cross of Christ is the Means** and the only Means by which all of these wonderful things are given to us (Rom. 6:1-14; Gal. 6:14; Col. 2:14,15)*
- 3. With our Lord as the Source and the Cross as the Means, **the Cross of Christ, without fail, must be the Object of our Faith** (1 Cor. 1:17, 18, 23; 2:2)*
- 4. With our Lord as the Source, the Cross as the Means, and the Cross the Object of our Faith, and exclusively the Object of Faith, then, **the Holy Spirit, Who works exclusively within the parameters, so to speak, of the Finished Work of Christ**, will work grandly on our behalf. If our Faith is placed anywhere other than the Cross of Christ, the Holy Spirit will not and, in fact, cannot function and work on our behalf. He is the One Who works on our behalf. Who Alone can make us what we ought to be, and Who works exclusively within the boundaries of the Cross of Christ (Rom. 8:1-14; Eph. 2:13-18)*

Only the Gospel of CHRIST can Give Us the Victory

There is therefore **now no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death**.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Rom. 8:1-4)

1. There is Now No Condemnation!

If Christ is in you (in Christ) no one can charge you with any sin.

Because Christ is in you God sees the perfection of Christ not your sin!

2. The Righteousness of God (the Law) might be fulfilled in us!

Notice the Law of God is fulfilled in us as long as we Walk in the Spirit not the

*flesh. **We are saved from sin, not in sin.** Sin cannot stand in the presence of God.*

You cannot practice sin and say you are in Christ. God does not accept this modern doctrine of greasy grace, once saved God expects you to walk out His will.

3. For the Law of the SPIRIT has made you Free from Sin and Death!

The SPIRIT of God is All Powerful. He can break any bondage of sin one might

have. Nothing is impossible for God. But you must surrender totally to Christ so

His SPIRIT can work in you.

4. What the Law Could Not Do, in that it was Weak through the Flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and Condemned sin in the flesh.

We cannot overcome sin in our flesh (our will power) see Paul in Romans chapter seven: Only the Cross of Jesus Christ (in Christ) can give us the Victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Col. 2:6-10)