

The Old or New Testament Gospel ???

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This terminology could be a little confusing to a new believer in Christ, but is really quite simple once you study the scriptures correctly. First we must understand that Christ is the Alfa and Omega; this is Greek (original written language) for the Beginning and the End: Of what you might ask? Of everything that was, that is, and ever will be. We must also understand that God has worked with mankind through different dispensations, seven to be exact. We won't discuss them here but you can see them in study # 15 (Satan's strategy to Deceive the World). In this study we are going to keep it simple; and just say "Before the Cross and After the Cross." Before the Cross, Jesus was working primarily with the Jewish race, and After the Cross Jesus is now primarily working with the Gentiles (anyone that is not Jewish). We are now in the New Testament age where God's Grace is available to all by Faith (Believe on Him). Our foundational scripture will be (Gal. 2:20):

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20)

In this verse, the New Testament Church was being birthed by the Apostle Paul and false teachers mostly old testament Jews; were coming into the Gentile churches and teaching it was the Cross and the Law of Moses that attained their salvation. In other words, they were saved by the works of the Law (circumcision, Jewish rituals etc). Not only did this confuse the people, but insulted God and the Apostle Paul. These false teachers were proclaiming God really had not sent the Apostle Paul and his message was not from God. We can clearly see satan behind this sinister plot! This is how the New Testament Church was birthed, with much pain and affliction from satan and false brethren. So if you say you are a Christian and haven't been through much affliction, I'd check your salvation. Amen. So lets begin the study:

I Am Crucified with Christ... (what does this mean?)

In the Greek it is in the perfect present tense. This means that something that happened in the past is ongoing in the present with continual benefits (past, present, and future).

*What Jesus did 2000 years ago (The Cross) is a fact of History but is more than a Historical event. It is a Historical event that is still producing benefits today. The ongoing benefits are to all believers (followers of Christ) and are available because of what Christ did at Calvary. Justification; Sanctification; Glorification; Divine Healing; Victory over Death, Hell, the Grave, and Satan; Grace, Mercy; Baptism in the Holy Spirit; Cleansed, Washed; Peace of God and Peace with God; Adopted into God's Family: All these benefits afforded to believers are due to a past act of Grace in Christ Jesus who payed the great price of our redemption. The Cross is a past act but with continued present effects in this world. As long as a person will humble themselves and repent before the Lord, all of God's benefits will be available to them. They enter into a brand new life, and are Born of God in Christ Jesus (Born Again). In the mind of God the moment the believing sinner falls upon the Mercy of God by what Christ did at Calvary, the sinner is **placed into Christ**. The old man (our sinful nature) that came from Adam was literally Crucified with Christ (2000 years ago). All of our failures, all of our sins, etc... in the mind of God were nailed to the Cross of Christ. You were crucified with Christ when He died and also resurrected with Him when God raised Him from the dead (sinless).*

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**: In whom also **ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ**: **Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead**. And **you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross**; And **having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it**. **Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ**. (Col. 2:9-17)

For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, **having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven**.

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister: (Col. 1:19-23)

Because of our Historical past with Jesus, we can now Boldly approach the Throne of God for all our needs and desires. You can only come before the Throne of God through the Blood of Jesus. When you petition God for something you are heard because of what Christ did on the Cross for you (not by your self works). Calvary's Cross was not only for our salvation, but for every blessing God has for us. That's why the Scripture's tell's us to take up our Cross daily. God was not meaning to take up a large wooden beam (wood) and suffer on it. But to walk out God's will for our lives in spite of the pain it might cause us!

And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, **Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.**

(Mark 8:34-38)

Religions take up this wooden beam (self righteous works) to try and pay for their own sins, insulting the work (sacrifice) that Christ did on the Cross infuriating the Holy Spirit.

How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "**Vengeance is mine; I will repay.**" And again, "**The Lord will judge his people.**" **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.** (Heb. 10:29-31) ESVS

There is no way we can save our sinful selves. So when we try to save ourselves by our own redemptive work, we insult God and outrage the Holy Spirit!

Our Faith must be anchored in the past with Christ manifesting present benefits. We must make sure that our faith is never transferred to religious works and away from the Cross. Remember, through the Cross we entered into His Death, and as we entered into His Death we also entered into His Resurrection. At the moment we repent and confess our sin in the mind of God we were crucified with Christ (spiritual death), Adam's sin nature no longer has dominion over us because of the resurrection power of Christ. You were resurrected in Him into newness of life. So in the mind of God we died with Christ (2000 years ago) and a new recreated man comes forth in newness of life created in the image of God (Jesus Christ).

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:17)

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. (Gal. 6:15)

*Nevertheless I Live; Yet Not I, but Christ Liveth in me... (what does this mean?) What Paul is saying here is; that sinful man that I used to be; Paul then Saul, tried to destroy God's New Testament Church, but after an encounter with Christ a new man in Christ came forth. Saul died (the old man) and the new man came forth (Paul) recreated in Christ Jesus. When Paul says, **I died**; the flesh didn't die but the controlling agent (the old man, the sinful nature) was rendered inoperable (dead) through the Blood of Jesus Christ. In other words, the old Adamic nature that ruled Saul's life is now being ruled by the will of God through Jesus Christ.*

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even **so we also should walk in newness of life**. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (Rom. 6:4,5)

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, **but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord**. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. (Rom. 6:11,12)

Paul now yield's his life to the indwelling Holy Spirit and willfully cooperates with God. Paul energized by God's divine nature in Him can now please God to the fullest.

Paul now is living a new life energized by the indwelling Holy Spirit manifesting good fruit that comes from the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore he can say;

“Nevertheless I Live; Yet Not I, but Christ Liveth in me.” (Gal. 2:20)

Paul presents Christ as the source of all Life and the foundation of all Victory.

The Personal Relationship Jesus had with the Holy Spirit

The relationship Jesus had with the Holy Spirit should be our example today of how we also should relate to the Holy Spirit. Today ministers in the apostate church are denying the power of the Holy Spirit, denying the gifts and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and some even denying the virgin birth and the Power of the Cross (the Blood)! If we are going to survive these last days we had better have a deep relationship with the Holy Spirit. The night before Jesus died He strongly recommended the Holy Spirit.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. **At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.** (John 14:16-20)

*We know God is a Trinity, and we understand the person of Jesus, and that of the Father, but somehow we don't quite grasp the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a person just like Jesus and the Father. He is not a bird, he is not wind, and he's not fire, although in scripture He is represented as such because He came upon Jesus in the form of a dove at His water baptism, He came as a mighty rushing wind at Pentecost, and He came as fire and sat upon all the disciples heads in the upper room experience. The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Godhead. Just because He's third doesn't mean His lower in rank, All Three are equal in Glory and Power but have separate functions in reference to the human race. **God is ONE the scripture declares!***

Who is the Spirit and how did Jesus Relate to Him?

If we are going to be transformed into the image of Jesus, we have to know the Holy Spirit intimately and have a personal relationship with Him.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26)

The Holy Spirit's roll is to teach us and remind us of what Jesus told us. We need to be able to hear Him and recognize His voice.

Let's Look at Their Relationship; "Jesus was Conceived by the Holy Spirit"
First, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Before creation, God knew (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) that man would fall into sin and lose his spiritual relationship with God. Sin is what separates us from God, God is so pure and Holy sin cannot exist in His presence. In this great meeting between the Trinity, Jesus offered to pay for man's sin, and the Spirit offered to guide Him through the Father's will. It was the Holy Spirit who planted the divine seed in Mary's womb. That seed became the God/Man; fully God and fully Man.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, **before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.** (Matt. 1:18)

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: **for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.** (Matt. 1:20-23)

*The Holy Spirit is so powerful that He turned God into a seed. Imagine what He can do with us if we humble ourselves and submit to Him. **We know Jesus is the Word**, that means God's Full revelation. If we understand the Word we understand God. Jesus is the visible image of God. The purpose of His whole life was to reveal God to humanity (John 14:9). **If you've seen me you've seen the Father!** Jesus was totally dependent on the Holy Spirit for instructions from the Father.*

He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;**
(Rev. 2:7) *"all 7 churches have this same message"*

Not Only was Jesus Conceived, but Anointed by the Holy Spirit

*In His water baptism (and there are **3** baptisms); Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and Fire! As soon as the Holy Spirit anointed Him for service (3rd baptism), Jesus began His miracle ministry into the wilderness. **In the baptisms, Jesus identified Himself with Humans, Not with angels!***

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (Matt. 3:16-4:1)

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but **he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:** (Matt. 3:11)

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And **suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.** (Acts 2:1-4)

*Like Jesus, we too should be baptized with the Power of the Holy Spirit for service. There is no way we can confront the devil's power and win without the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, after the baptism of the Holy Spirit we also should go out into the wilderness (**The World**) and rescue God's people from their bondages.*

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. (Luke 4:14,15)

And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind,**

to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:17-19)

Everything Jesus did was to teach us to obey and follow the Holy Spirit. Jesus had such union and fellowship with the Holy Spirit that when the Holy Spirit spoke He instantly obeyed. Likewise we need the fellowship the Holy Spirit like Jesus did. We must obey the moment we hear Him and not debate or analyze what He has told us. Jesus humbled Himself before the Holy Spirit and produced perfect fruit unto the Father. It is impossible to grow up into Christ without the Holy Spirit! Religion is an example of growing up in church without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Tim. 3:5)

We must yield to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives in order to please God. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us in good times and bad. But we know that God works everything in our lives for our good and His Glory.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Rom. 8:28,29)

*Not Only Conceived, and Anointed, but Ministered by the Holy Spirit
Every word that Jesus spoke was anointed by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit always guided Him as to what and when to speak.*

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63)

Knowing this first, **that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

(2 Pet. 1:20,21)

Everywhere and Everything Jesus did was Guided by the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit enabled Jesus to endure the horrors of the Cross and the shedding of so much blood. It is scientifically impossible for a man to shed so much blood and make it to the Crucifixion. Only the Holy Spirit kept Him alive. That is the reason God sent His Only Son into the world, to be a sin offering on the alter of God. Jesus came to save man not to condemn him.

For God so loved the world (TRINITY), that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16-18)

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

Why did Jesus endure all that suffering? So that you and I could find our way back to God in Heaven and deeply love Him forever. If we deny the Great Love God has for us we deserve Hell.

How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb. 10:29-31) ESVS

None of us is wise enough to navigate this sinful world without the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit was given to us to remind us of everything Jesus taught and show us of things to come.

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.** (Zech. 4:6)