

THE TRUE GOSPEL – Part 2

1 Corinthians 15:1, 3–4

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

What we just read, namely that Christ *died for our sins* and *rose again on the third day*, is the Gospel or the *good news*. Now, why is the Gospel considered *good news*? The reason the Gospel is considered *good news* is because...

IT SAVES FROM THE BAD NEWS

You can't really appreciate the *good news* until you first learn the *bad news*. So, what's the bad news?

Psalm 96:13

13 Before the Lord: for he cometh, For he cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the people with his truth.

Notice, the bad news is that God is coming to *judge the world* with righteousness. This means, everyone who falls short of righteousness, or falls short of God's righteous standard, is in danger of judgment. And, unfortunately, *EVERYONE* is in that category!

Romans 3:23

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

But, the news gets even worse.

Romans 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Notice, God's judgment (wrath) is being revealed *right now* against all unrighteousness of men! This means that unless something is done about our sins, we will continue to experience judgment, both now and into the future. But, there is good news. The good news is that Christ died and rose again to save us from our sins!

Romans 5:8, 9

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

When the Bible says that we're "saved" it means this in every possible way. In other words, to say that we are "saved" is to say that we are saved *from all things*. And we can prove this by simply tracing how the Greek word "saved" (**σῴζω**) is used throughout the New Testament. For example, the word "saved" describes...

a. Deliverance from SIN

Luke 7:48–50

48 And he said unto her, THY SINS ARE FORGIVEN. 49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? 50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath SAVED thee; go in peace.

b. Deliverance from SATAN (demons)

Luke 8:35–36

35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the DEVILS WERE DEPARTED, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. 36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was HEALED.

c. Deliverance from SICKNESS

Luke 18:42

42 And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath SAVED thee.

d. Deliverance from TROUBLE

Matthew 8:25

25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, SAVE US: we PERISH.

Not everyone teaches or believes that the gospel saves from ALL these things. The reason they don't is because they're afraid that if they make such a *bold* claim, it may not come to pass. But, we must remember that the Gospel doesn't just save from all things because the Bible says it does. The Gospel saves from all things because we *believe* it does!

Romans 1:16

16 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.

Notice, it's only when we believe the Gospel does it have "power" to save. This means that we can't just sit back and wait to see the power before we believe the Gospel. That's what *scoffers* do. Scoffer wait to see signs *before* they believe. But, believers see signs *because* they believe!

There's another reason the Gospel is good news. It's also good news because...

IT'S GIVEN TO US FREELY

The salvation offered by the Gospel is given *freely* on the basis of God's grace.

Romans 3:24

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Therefore, the redemption that comes through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ is given to us freely (by grace). Moreover, to say that we are justified *by grace* is to say that we are justified *apart from our works*.

Romans 11:6

6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.

There is nothing (no work) we can do to *earn* the salvation offered by the Gospel. This makes Christianity different from every other religion in the world. Every other religion in the world requires men to *do something* in order to be justified or "made right" in the sight of God. However, the gospel says, "You are made right (justified) *freely* by His grace." As a result, the only thing left for us to do is *believe* and enter into this grace by faith!

Hebrews 4:1–2

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Notice, the gospel was preached way back then unto the Israelites. Of course, the *content* of that 'gospel' was different from what we hear today. Still, it was 'good

news.’ And the reason it was considered *good news* is because the work required to bring it to pass was already *finished!*

Hebrews 4:3

³ For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

When it comes to salvation, God has already done the heavy lifting. The only thing left is for us to believe and enter into *rest*. When we say “rest,” understand what that means. *Rest* means ceasing from *our* works.

Hebrews 4:10

¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Unfortunately, ceasing from our works can be the most difficult work of all!

Hebrews 4:11

¹¹ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

The fact that we are told to “labor” to enter into rest tells us that entering into rest is not always easy. This is particularly true when things seem very bad. It’s in those critical times that we feel we can’t afford to rest.

However, we **MUST** learn to rest, even if we have to *labor* to do it!

Hebrews 4:11 Message Bible

¹¹ So let’s keep at it and eventually arrive at the place of rest, not drop out through some sort of disobedience.

Notice that it doesn’t say, “Keep at it until you arrive at a solution.” It says, “Keep at it until you arrive at the place of REST.” There many are examples in Scripture of individuals who had to ‘keep at it’ until they learned to rest!

Romans 4:20–21

²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Although it says that Abraham “staggered not at the promise,” it took him awhile to arrive at to this point (some 25 years)! He had to ‘keep at it’ until he learned to rest (cease from his works). We all do this to some extent. We struggle to see results because we struggling to rest (cease from our works)!