

# THE TRUE GOSPEL – Part 1

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The *gospel* (Greek: *euaggélion*) means the “good news.” What is the *good news*?

### **1 Corinthians 15:1–4**

***1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 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:***

There are two facts that are *essential* to the gospel—*Christ died for our sins* and that *He rose again the third day*. (This is apparent by the phrase, “according to the Scriptures,” that appears after each of these two statements.)

What’s so important about these two statements?

## CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS

This statement tells us that Christ’s atoned and “redeemed” us from sin.

### **Galatians 3:13**

***13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:***

Redemption is the price (ransom) that is paid to set someone free. Thus, without Christ’s death we would still be in slavery to sin and the curse!

## CHRIST ROSE AGAIN

This statement reminds us that Christ has successfully made atonement for us. (When the high priest emerged ‘alive’ from behind the veil, it was proof he had successfully made atonement!) ALSO, without Christ’s resurrection there would be no “hope” of salvation after this life.

### **1 Corinthians 15:19, 20**

***19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.***

The resurrection proves that there's victory (salvation), beyond the grave!

### **1 Corinthians 15:54, 55**

***54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?***

Now, not everyone believes (or even knows) the gospel. Even those who describe themselves as 'Christian' don't necessarily believe or know the gospel. Most only have a *partial* understanding of the gospel.

## **THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH**

**Acts 8:26–27, 30–31, 34–35**

***26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, 30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.***

From all accounts, this eunuch was a very moral person. He clearly abstained from fornication, he observed the law, he even read the Scriptures. However, he did not know *Jesus*. Knowing Jesus, particularly that He saves, is essential to knowing the gospel!

## **CORNELIUS**

**Acts 10:1, 2**

***1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, 2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.***

Cornelius was a devout man who feared God, gave alms and prayed regularly. Still, there was something missing in his service to God.

### **Acts 10:34–37**

***34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. 36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;***

Apparently, Cornelius *knew* the gospel. Still, he was he lacking something.

### **Acts 10:39–43**

***39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.***

Cornelius was lacking the grace to *believe* the gospel. It's not enough to *know* the gospel. You must *believe* it. But, this requires *grace* from God!

## **APOLLOS**

### **Acts 18:24, 25**

***24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.***

What does it mean that Apollos knew only the *baptism of John*?

### **Acts 19:4**

***4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.***

John's baptism centered on *repentance*. If Apollos knew only of repentance, then he had a *partial* understanding of the gospel.

### **1 John 1:7**

***7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

The true gospel is that Unless you believe that God cleanses from sin, you will never gain the victory over sin (i.e. stop sinning).

### **1 John 3:2, 3**

***2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.***

This “hope” is the *hope of the gospel*, namely that we are *children of God*. And, as children of God we believe that we are *pure* as He is pure. If we hold on to this hope and don't moved away from it, we will not commit sin!

### **1 John 3:9**

***9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.***

The seed is Christ. Christ (and what He's done) is also our *hope*. Moreover, if we hold on to this, we **cannot sin!** Can we say this in light of *1John 1:8*?

### **1 John 1:8**

***8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.***

There's a difference between *having* sin and *committing* sin. You can have sin, but if you also have Christ, He will be greater than your sin!

### **1 John 4:4**

***4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.***

Therefore, we mustn't reduce the gospel to moralism or religion. Also, we mustn't reduce to gospel to simply repentance or the forgiveness of sins. The gospel is that Jesus saves, and He saves us from sin completely. Finally, it's not enough to simply *know* this. We must believe it to be saved!