

# THE TRUE GOSPEL – Part 3

## **1 Corinthians 15:2–4**

***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:***

We said to you that this *is* the gospel. Yet, if we stopped here, we would leave you with the impression that the gospel is simply information (doctrine). But, the gospel is so much more than that. It's power!

## **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.***

The gospel is God's power to save. The gospel is not man's power. The gospel is God's power, and it's God's power to save us from ALL things (sin, sickness, satan and situations). But, God's power will only saves those who *believe*. And this is what it boils down to—learning to believe the gospel. The value is not in knowing the gospel. The value is found in believing the gospel.

But, what about the gospel are we to believe? We are to believe that everything needed to bring about our salvation has already been accomplished through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

## **Hebrews 4:11**

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

What example of unbelief is the author referring to? The author is referring to how the Israelites *did not* enter into rest because they *would not* believe that the works were 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.***

The faith that obtains the promise is a faith that believes it's done or finished! To truly believe the gospel we must believe that we are **ALREADY** saved from sin, sickness, satan and situations. Therefore, anyone trying to save themselves is guilty of not believing the gospel. Unless you are resting from your works, you are falling after the same example of unbelief!

Now, many will insist that they're not in unbelief concerning the gospel. However, there are signs that show whether a person is in unbelief concerning the gospel.

For example, if you're **discouraged** concerning your salvation, then this may be a sign that you're not in faith concerning the gospel. One of the reasons people become discouraged concerning salvation is because they have this false idea that they're responsible for bringing their salvation to pass. So, they get busy trying to bring their salvation to pass in their own strength. But, this only works until it doesn't. And when it doesn't it leads to discouragement!

When we become discouraged we start believing that it's our fault that we're not "departing from sin," or that we're not "recovering from our sickness." We interpret these things as some flaw or problem with us. Eventually, we get tired of hearing that we have a problem, particularly one that we can't shake, and we lash out at anyone who tries to question or correct us.

But, the real problem is not that others are pointing out our sins. The problem is we're trying to overcome our sin on our own!

### **Hebrews 10:24,25**

***24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.***

God never intended for us to try to overcome sin on our own. But, when we think that we're responsible for saving ourselves, this is what we do. And it causes us to reject correction and advice from others. This, in turn, causes us to isolate ourselves, which can be very dangerous!

### **Hebrews 10:26, 27**

***26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.***

Notice, the “willful disobedience” in **verse 26** is the result of isolating oneself (or “forsaking the assembling of yourselves”) in **verse 25**. Therefore, when we isolating ourselves from others, particularly those who can hold us accountable, we start making excuses for our sin, which the Bible calls willful disobedience!

Therefore, when we are **self-righteous** (make excuses for our sin or trust in our own righteousness), this is another sign that we are not believing the gospel (i.e. that we are not trusting God for His righteousness).

### ***Philippians 3:9***

***<sup>9</sup> And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:***

“How do we break free from the cycle of discouragement and self-justification?” It’s simple—believe the gospel! “But, what if we are *struggling* to believe the gospel? What do we do?” Great question.

### ***Romans 3:3***

***<sup>3</sup> For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?***

Notice, Paul is asking the same question—“What if we’re unfaithful/disobedient to the message of God? Will this nullify the faithfulness of God?” In other words, will God not help us?

### ***Romans 3:4***

***<sup>4</sup> God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.***

Paul says, “Let God be true...that you may be justified in your sayings (or words)!” Therefore, we can be justified by our words even when we cannot be justified by our faith! (This is important because only the *justified* are entitled to God’s grace.) In those times when we are falling short of God’s expectations through our unbelief or disobedience, if we will simply let God be true (i.e. say what He says about our sin and salvation) we’ll be justified and receive grace!

### ***Romans 4:20***

***<sup>20</sup> He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;***

We assume that the phrase “giving glory to God” means that Abraham sang praises to God. However, “give glory to God” simply means to *tell the truth!*

***Joshua 7:19***

***19 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.***

Joshua is not commanding Achan to sing praises to God. Instead, he’s commanding Achan to confess his sin (tell the truth) before God! This is what we’re commanded to do. When you find yourself failing God or falling under the same example of unbelief, remember to let God be true. Don’t make excuses for your sin. Give glory to God and confess your sin AND confess the truth about what God has done concerning your sin!