

## The Gospel

What is the gospel of Jesus Christ and why does it matter? Pastors teach about the gospels but many today are falling away from teaching about the gospel of Christ. The bible has the gospels and the gospel. It is something many Christians get confused about when reading through the New Testament. We will go into some of the scriptures from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as well as the words of the apostle Paul. I will show you why the gospel is so important to know who Jesus Christ is.

One thousand nine hundred and ninety years ago Jesus shed his blood and died on the cross for our sins. He was buried in a tomb and then rose again on the third day. But how did he rise again on the third day? It was done by the hand of God. The power of the Almighty rose his Son from the dead after spending three days and three nights inside the earth, and brought him back to everlasting life. In Jesus' own words before he was crucified, he said he would be inside the earth for three days.

Matthew 12:40

*For Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

We see in the book of Acts after Jesus was killed, buried and resurrected that the disciples received the Holy Ghost, and the church was formed and started baptizing and teaching the gospel of Christ. After the crucifixion at Pentecost, they understood the words spoken of by Jesus at the last supper was the start of the New Testament that needed to be preached to all the world.

Matthew 26:27-28

*And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;*

*For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for remission of sins.*

John 20:19

*Then the same day at evening, being the first days of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

Acts 1:5

*For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

Acts 2:1-4

*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.*

The main teaching of the New Testament is the blood of Christ that he shed on the cross. The apostle Paul, formally known as Saul before he was saved, was arresting, beating and killing people in the church of Christ. He was doing what he thought was right to the laws of God in the Old Testament texts. He was not yet shown spiritually that Jesus was the Messiah.

That was soon about to change.

As we read through the New Testament we see that Saul was chosen by Jesus to teach the gospel of Christ to the world. After Saul was trying to destroy the name of Jesus because he did not believe, Saul was met by the Lord, blinded and instructed to go into Damascus, and there he would be told what to do. A man of God named Ananias was also visited by the Lord and told to find Saul and help him.

Acts 9:13-15

*Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:*

*And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.*

*But the Lord said unto him, God thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.*

If Jesus choose Saul, ( name became Paul after his transition ) then he is a pretty important person we as Christians should be listening to. Saul was a very educated man with great knowledge of his Jewish traditions. He did not believe in Jesus as the Messiah and definitely didn't believe he was the Son of God. After Jesus appeared to Saul and blinded his eyes for three days, Ananias was sent to heal his eyes so that he could see again. This was not to just punish Saul for persecuting people of the church, but it was a symbol of how God can open the eyes of the spiritually blind and give them new life with Christ.

It was to show that we are not bound to be baptized in water like the days of John the Baptist, but we are to be spiritually baptized by the Holy Ghost sent from God.

It reveals to us that baptism by water is not needed to be saved today but rather after you are saved you can be baptized. Saul did not receive the Holy Ghost after he was baptized but rather before he was baptized when his eyes were healed and opened. We are saved today by believing in what Jesus did on the cross for us. This is the same thing with the 10 commandments. We are meant to follow God's commandments, but for us today, the church

of Christ, that's not what saves us. After we are saved then we should follow the laws but we should not follow the laws to be saved.

If we were saved by following the laws and getting baptized, then that means what Jesus did on the cross isn't really that important for salvation. This is not what the bible teaches and that's not what Paul teaches us. We are saved by truly believing in our hearts that Christ died for our sins and shed his blood for all of us.

When Saul changed and was called Paul, he became a true believer in Christ and started preaching the gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

*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 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.*

This here is the gospel to believe in Jesus Christ and what he did for us 1,990 years ago. We are saved by believing in his shed blood on the cross and not by works. It is by the shed blood of Christ we are saved, and all people need to do is believe in their hearts, and they will be saved.

We are meant to rightly divide the word of truth in the bible. Without this, many doctrines can get into quite a mess.

2 Timothy 2:15

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

You see, in the Old Testament there was a mystery only revealed to the prophets. It was of the future Messiah and future events for the Jewish people. It was also a mystery that the Messiah would be crucified and die for the whole world. The Jewish people did not see this mystery because God did not and has not revealed it to them just yet, that Jesus is the Messiah. This will not happen until the mid-way point of the tribulation for some, but mainly at the end of the tribulation for most. Much like today, we see half the church do not see the mystery of the pre-tribulation rapture that Paul teaches us.

This will not be revealed to them until after the rapture occurs and the tribulation starts. By that point it is too late for people to believe in the pre-tribulation rapture because it would have already happened.

Paul was shown many mysteries for us today. It is by the Holy Spirit these mysteries are revealed to us.

Jesus taught us many things but one thing that is very important is that when he appoints someone to be his prophet, apostle, disciple or any type of workman, he intends for us to listen to his chosen people. When Paul commands us to follow his gospel that was revealed to him from Christ, I know that we should do so.

Romans 16:25-26

*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:*

*To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.*

Romans 2:16

*In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

As believers we need to understand what the difference is in the scriptures of the gospels and the gospel. So, we have seen previously what the gospel is and why Paul was teaching it to the world. That is what saves us today. The good news gospel message that Jesus taught in his earthly ministry was mainly for the Jews but with a duel application for us as well. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the good news when Christ was still here on earth preaching the kingdom of heaven to the Jews.

Matthew 10:5-6

*These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of Samaritans enter ye not:*

*But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

Jesus sent them out into the Jewish lands to teach them about the Messiah and the kingdom of God. This changed after Jesus was raised from the dead when he told the disciples to go out into the world, not just Israel, but to the whole world and teach his message.

Matthew 28:19

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

When Jesus was here on earth there was a message given to the Jews that is different to the message we are given today by Paul.

I will show you here two verses that give us a pretty good definition of the kingdom of God versus the kingdom of heaven.

Romans 14:17

*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

Matthew 8:11

*And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*

When reading these two verses it is pretty clear there is a difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. The first shows us that the kingdom of God is spiritual, offering righteousness, peace and joy. The second shows that the kingdom of heaven is a place, where many will sit down with the Old Testament prophets and leaders in heaven. Three out of the four gospels tell us something else. The kingdom of heaven is only used in the book of Matthew but in the books of Mark, Luke and John say the kingdom of God. I believe there is a small difference with the teachings of these books but it is still meaning the same thing about God's kingdom. His kingdom in the spirit comes first and then the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom of God is being one with God and the Holy Ghost, the kingdom of heaven is a spiritual place where all believers who are dead are right now. It also means when Christ rules and reigns for 1000 years. The kingdom of heaven will be brought down to earth and everything and everybody will live the way God intended us to live.

To understand all this you need to understand how dispensations work within the scriptures. When the rapture occurs, people will no longer be saved by believing. Right now we can be saved and raptured to heaven just by having faith and believing in what Jesus did for us. After the rapture, that time will be gone and the age of grace will be over. It will turn back to a works gospel. People will need to do something to be saved and enter into the millennial kingdom of Christ for 1000 years

Regardless of the use of these two terms just above, Paul taught us that things were changing and the law was no longer needed to be saved. After the Jews rejected Jesus, and crucified him, God put his attention to the Gentiles and ministered to them through the apostle Paul.

Ephesians 2:8-9

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Faith in what you might be asking? Faith in the gospel of Christ, believing in what he did for us on the cross. This is such an important doctrine to understand because we are already seeing this teaching fade away. 50 years ago you would hear about the blood of Christ in all churches. Today it is talked about very little. In the tribulation, it will be bible truth like this that won't be taught by many preachers. If they do, they will most likely be persecuted.

People need to understand that in the last days, the tribulation, there will be a new world religion and over 75% of people will be deceived by this global system. Just think about a Superman like figure showing up, doing amazing things, and uniting the world with peace.

That is what it will be like in the last days. The doctrine of Jesus Christ is the most important truth to stay close to and study and imprint on your mind and spirit.

Galatians 4:6

*God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father.*

I pray this is a blessing to you.

God bless