

# The Gospel of Jesus Christ

I am not content simply have church and pretend all is well. I desire what Jesus died to give us. I want what the apostles knew and died for. I want the authentic gospel of Christ not the version the American church has produced. Does anyone recognize the difference between the Bible and our Christianity? Can anyone see how far we have fallen?

**I fear we have somehow become acclimated and familiar with a powerless gospel [religion] that we have subtly fallen into unbelief concerning God's true heart and intention in sending His Son and the message of the gospel.**

For much of the church, these statements are true:

- We lack seeing radical transformation
- We lack seeing the miraculous, signs & wonders, healing and deliverance that launches people into an abandoned pursuit of Christ
- We have come to think bondage and a lifestyle of habitual sin is normal
- We have embraced apathy and complacency as the norm and resist radical, passionate devotion to Christ, which the gospel demands.
- The gospel must pierce our hearts before it can impact anyone else. We must feel the sword of His word deep in us if we desire to have deep impact.

**Most Christians don't know the gospel; they know church—or their experience with the church.**

**This is why we are seeing a majority of Christians church goes and not Christ followers.**

A. The gospel is much more than God loves you and has a great plan for your life. This is not what Peter preached on the day of Pentecost or what Paul proclaimed to pagan Gentiles. They preached Jesus as Christ and Lord, who died for our sin, was risen from the dead, seated at the right hand of the Father holding all power and authority, who is returning to judge the world and commanded humanity to repent and respond to who He is and what He has done.

B. **The gospel is the proclamation of the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 declares:**

<sup>3</sup> And even if our **gospel** is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the **light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

C. The gospel message can be summarized as: who is God, who/what is man, what has God done

**D. We need a God centered, Christ glorifying gospel of power that brings salvation and transformation.** Much of the church's message and proclamation is man centered, which is the root of much of the problem in the western church and its powerlessness.

### **What is the good news that we find solely in Christ Jesus?**

- A. The gospel carries the meaning of good news, proclamation of good news of victory...what is the victory that has been accomplished for us that not only makes us rejoice, but launches us into proclaiming what has been done. I believe that if we could see who Jesus is and what He has truly done, we would give ourselves unreservedly and go and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God with accompanying signs.
- B. It is the revelation of the goodness of God that leads us to true repentance where we embrace His Word and turn.
- C. In a time when there were no media outlets like radio, newspaper, television, there were messengers who delivered good news. This was normally connected to military victories, but also were political or private messages as well.
- D. This is the foundation of the meaning of the word gospel. It was based on 2 words that meant joyful and message, news. This is what the angels declared in **Luke 2:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you **good tidings of great joy** which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

### **What is the gospel of Jesus Christ?**

Mark 1:1 "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God..."

We have interpreted that to mean the beginning of a story or 4 books in the New Testament, yet this is not a sufficient representation of the gospel.

The gospel is the good news that

#### **1. There is a True and Living God**

**Acts 14:8-15 NIV**

<sup>8</sup> In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup> He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup> and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. <sup>11</sup> When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" <sup>12</sup> Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes

because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup> The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. <sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: <sup>15</sup> “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you **good news**, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.

- A. The good news that we must embrace and absorb is there is a True and Living God, who is the Creator of all we know. Paul began to declare the good news to these people that there is a God who is alive and knows them and has desire for them. They don't have to serve these dead, worthless idols and objects of pleasure. They can know the Author of creation.
- B. This is the foundation of our gospel as Christians. This is where we must come under the weight that there is something and Someone greater than ourselves. He is God and you are not. You have nothing and He has everything.
- C. This is the hope for this generation: they are not stuck in darkness to their dead idols and objects of worship. There is a True and Living God. We have a God who is alive, He hears, sees and acts on behalf of His people.

## 2. God is King and holds all authority

Isaiah 52:7, Romans 10:15

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring **good news**, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

- A. There would be nothing to celebrate or declare with joy if our God was not an All Powerful, Sovereign King who holds the universe in His hands.
- B. This verse in context is speaking of the restoration of Israel from Babylonian exile. It also pointed to the day when the Messiah would come and break in with power on behalf of God's people. Paul quotes this in Romans 10 speaking of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- C. This was the message of John the Baptist and the message of the ministry of Jesus  
“<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the **good news of God**. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the **good news!**” **Mark 1:14–15**

- D. What Jesus was saying was this: the awaited time for the King to come is here. Change everything you know and think to align with who I am and place your faith in the message of good news and victory I bring you.
- E. Jesus was essentially saying if you place your faith and change your life to conform to what I am saying and who I am, you are My people and I will bring you justice, victory, redemption and salvation. If you do not, you will be stuck in the bondage you find yourself in.

- F. In the midst of a world that is impacted so much by darkness, sin and chaos, the promise of the day to come when the King of Glory will come down and bring justice is a facet of the gospel. Without this hope, we have no good news.

### 3. The gospel is the declaration that there is a Savior

**Luke 2:10–11, Romans 1:1–3**

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news** that will cause **great joy** for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah [Christ the anointed One of God], the Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the **gospel of God**— <sup>2</sup> **the gospel** he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David [The Savior, Messiah]

**This is the amazing, unfathomable revelation of the gospel:**

- A. The True and Living God, the King who holds all power and authority, has sent His Son who is Lord and Christ. This means that Jesus is both the awaited Messiah, the son of David and He is Lord, Yahweh the uncreated God.
- B. He has come down to take on flesh and become our Savior. He has come to save us from our sin
- C. The gospel or good news is that we are not stuck in bondage to sin, darkness; we have a Savior who is our Mighty God.

### 4. Christ has died for our sins

**1 Corinthians 15:1–3**

- A. There was a promise of a new covenant God would make with His people that would bring victory over sin and redeem them. However, no one could imagine the humility, greatness, mercy and love of the King who would take of royal robes to be clothed with flesh; then allow that flesh to be torn and shed blood to purchase back a rebellious creation.
- B. How would this awaited Messiah who was God become our Savior? By giving His life as a ransom for humanity. [Mark 10:45]
- C. Paul connects this concept to the good news we have in Jesus
- D. <sup>1</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> **By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
- E. His death was a ransom we could not pay. It was undeserved and displays the love and glory of the God we serve.

- F. This is the good news that the world needs: there is a King who has made a way for you in your brokenness and weakness, He has canceled the debt and invited you to come. He has overcome your greatest enemy. We cannot overemphasize this reality or neglect it.

## 5. Christ has risen

### 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 17

- A. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, **that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**
- B. “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.” 1 Cor 15:7
- C. A dead Savior means nothing. However, a risen King that is now exalted at the right hand of God, who rules and reigns over all, who has defeated your sin and your greatest enemy means everything.
- D. Because He is alive, we have life and the promise of eternal life
- E. People need to know there is a God who has won the decisive battle assuring all who come to Him victory. Death is not the end.
- F. Thus far, the gospel message is the True and Living God, the Creator and King of the universe, has come in His Son, Jesus the Messiah, and died for our sins and has been raised from the dead. But there is more.

## 6. The Promise of the Father: the indwelling of His Spirit

### Luke 3:16, 18

“<sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire...” <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and **proclaimed the good news to them.**

- A. The good news that we find in Christ is the indwelling, empowering presence of God with us that makes us new creations in Christ. If we are without the presence and power of God, we are without hope.
- B. Jesus reiterated John prior to Pentecost concerning the promise of the Holy Spirit. [Luke 24:49, Acts 1:5, 8]
- C. We are never alone, nor do we have to walk this journey out in our own power. We have the promise of the Holy Spirit. We have been given the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead that we should walk in newness of life and victory.
- D. The presence of Holy Spirit: power, access to deep things of God, gifts and fruit of Spirit, intimacy with His heart

- E. The very desire of God is to find a dwelling place with man where humanity and God can have fellowship again.
- F. **This is the good news of the gospel– we get God. We don't just get His gifts or forgiven, we get Him.**

**What does the gospel provide or produce in our lives?**

**The promise of salvation**

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, **the gospel of your salvation**. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **Ephesians 1:3**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed **of the gospel**, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. **Romans 1:16**

- A. On the basis of all that news—news of things God has already done in Christ without yet any effect in us—now the Bible speaks of the effects or the accomplishments of those events as good news. One of the most encompassing words to describe the good news of what God does for us and in us is salvation.
  - B. When we respond to the good news found solely in Jesus Christ, the result is salvation. We are saved eternally, but we are also brought into the kingdom of God and receive the inheritance of sonship including: healing, deliverance, peace with God, righteousness, grace, and more.
  - C. **Our salvation is based on our response to the gospel. If our salvation is not bearing fruit, we must question if we have truly heard, understood and surrendered to the news of the King: who He is and what He has done.**
  - D. I repeat what Jesus declared at the onset of His ministry for greater impact in our hearts
- <sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”