

Gospel, Part 2

The gospel message is how our lives are changed by God's power!

Romans 1:16 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 will not work if you take away from it or add to it.

Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

The gospel has three parts – death, burial, and resurrection.

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 have 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:

The word “gospel” means “good news” and comes from the Greek word “euaggelion.” Have you ever wondered why, when the gospel message was preached the very first time, the question of the people hearing it was “**What shall we DO?**” It’s because the word “euaggelion” is a circular word – it means “a sacrifice given in thanks for good tidings,” and is closely linked with the thought of victory in battle. That is why they responded with this question when they heard the great news of Christ’s eternal triumph over sin, Satan, and death on their behalf!

Acts 2:36-38 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the **Holy Ghost**.

- Jesus died, He was buried, and He rose again.
- We repent, we are baptized, and we receive the Holy Ghost.
- This is our “euagelia” (thanksgiving sacrifice) for the GOOD NEWS!

THE BOOK OF ACTS IS THE “HINGE” OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.
It tells us what the church DID with what Jesus SAID.

Many people today think they are saved by “accepting Christ as their Saviour” or “asking Jesus into their heart” or by “believing on the Lord” – MANY TIMES THIS IS NOT EVEN REAL REPENTANCE, BECAUSE REPENTANCE IS BEING “SORRY ENOUGH TO CHANGE!”

But even for those who really repent, many people stop there and go no further – this is the theological equivalent of leaving Jesus on the cross! **Paul told us that the next part of the gospel was Jesus’ burial, and Peter told us that our next step is baptism in Jesus’ name!**

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;** but he that believeth not shall be damned.

THERE ARE NO DELAYED BAPTISMS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT!

- **Acts 2:41** – “the same day”
- **Acts 16:33** – “the same hour”
- **Acts 9:18** – “immediately”
- **Acts 10:48** – “he commanded them to be baptized”
- **Acts 22:16** – “why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”

Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

John 5:43 – “I am come in my Father’s name”

Matthew 1:21 – “thou shalt call his name Jesus”

John 14:26 – “the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name”

WATER BAPTISM IN THE BOOK OF ACTS:

- Day of Pentecost – Acts 2:38-41 – “name of Jesus Christ”
- Samaritan Believers – Acts 8:16 – “name of the Lord Jesus”
- Cornelius’ Household – Acts 10:48 – “name of the Lord”
- Disciples of John – Acts 19:5 – “name of the Lord Jesus”

Matthew didn’t write his gospel until AD 62 – he is making a theological statement about the Oneness of God that has been confirmed by thirty years of the church baptizing every convert in the name of Jesus Christ!

WHAT IF I’VE ALREADY BEEN BAPTIZED A DIFFERENT WAY?

Acts 19:3-5 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. 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.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
WE PUT ON CHRIST WHEN WE ARE BAPTIZED!

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

WE ARE BURIED WITH CHRIST WHEN WE ARE BAPTIZED!

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

OUR SINS ARE LEGALLY BLOTTED OUT WHEN WE ARE BAPTIZED!

Colossians 2:12-15 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

HOW DID JESUS “TRIUMPH” OVER PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS?
BY GOING INTO THE GRAVE AND BEATING THEM ON THEIR OWN TURF! HE DEFEATED THEM “LEGALLY” – FAIR AND SQUARE!

Peter, the “Pentecost Preacher,” tells us that Jesus accomplished a great work while He was buried in the grave! He even proclaimed His triumph to disobedient souls from ancient generations who were in death’s prison of judgment. But notice which generation Peter singles out – Noah’s generation, because Noah was “**saved by water**” from judgment.

1 Peter 3:18-21 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. **The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

THERE IS A SUPERNATURAL SHIFT IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WHEN I AM BAPTIZED IN JESUS’ NAME. I ENTER INTO A

LEGAL COVENANT WITH HIM THAT FOREVER HAS IMPLICATIONS ON MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SIN. (*i.e. backslider vs. sinner*)
Baptism is an ANNOUNCEMENT OF COVENANT, not by YOU, but by GOD! It is not just YOU saying “I belong to Jesus” – it is JESUS saying “YOU BELONG TO ME – WE ARE IN COVENANT!”

PAUL COMPARES BAPTISM TO CROSSING THE RED SEA ...

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

ONCE ISRAEL CROSSED THE RED SEA, PHARAOH AND THE ARMIES OF EGYPT COULDN’T GET THROUGH THE WATER!

- **The devil cannot LEGALLY bring up your past.**
- **God declares that He has FORGOTTEN your past.**
- **Only YOU can choose to go back to your past!**

- **If you are a sinner, repent and initiate a baptism covenant!**
- **If you are a backslider, repent and return to your covenant!**