

Gospel, Part 1

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 is was “**What shall we DO?**” We don’t normally ask that when we receive good news, because “news” to us is passive. But the word “euaggelion” is a circular word – it means “a sacrifice given in thanks for good tidings.”

Euaggelion was commonly used in the Graeco-Roman culture as "a technical term for "news of victory." The messenger appears, raises his right hand in greeting and calls out with a loud voice: "rejoice ... we are victorious!" By his appearance it is known already that he brings good news. His face shines, his spear is decked with laurel, his head is crowned, he swings a branch of palms, joy fills the city, **euaggelia (SACRIFICES) are offered**, the temples are garlanded, a celebratory race is held, crowns are put on for the sacrifices and the one to whom the message is owed is honored with a wreath ... [thus] euaggelion is closely linked with the thought of victory in battle. (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament) This is a convicting definition - here a pagan messenger radiantly announces good news of an earthly victory and there is a huge response. How much more should we respond to the great news of Christ's eternal triumph over sin, Satan, and death on our behalf? **THAT IS WHY THEY ASKED “WHAT SHALL WE DO?”!!!**

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 “euaggelia” (thanksgiving sacrifice) for the GOOD NEWS!

There is only ONE salvation message, regardless of what various denominations say! It is not that WE are right and THEY are wrong; it is that the BIBLE is right and EVERYONE ELSE is wrong!

THE FIRST STEP IN GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD IS REPENTANCE.

Repentance is not just “accepting” the good news, and it is not just feeling “sorry” for your sins – it is offering yourself as a “sacrifice” in thanksgiving for the Gospel – it is being sorry enough to change!

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Repentance is not a “feeling” – it is a “turning around” or an “about face” – an inward change of attitude leading to an outward change of action. Unless both of these occur, repentance has not taken place.

Matthew 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Repentance is essential for salvation. God has already done His part – the “good news” has been announced. Now it's up to you, not God!

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Repentance takes a decision on your part to turn back to God in your attitude and go back to God in your actions.

Luke 15:18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

Repentance makes sense to a parent – it doesn't matter how far your love goes for a wayward child, they still have to come home!