

SIMPLE, PART ONE

Isaiah 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

The gospel message is SIMPLE! Getting saved is SIMPLE!

1 John 5:6-8 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

The gospel message has different components that work together.

The word “gospel” is from the Anglo-Saxon word “godspel,” meaning “god-message” or “good story.” We use the transliterated term “good news” in place of the Greek word “euaggelion,” and usually think of it as meaning ONLY the good tidings themselves. However, in the Greek language the word “euaggelion” actually signifies “a present given to one who brought good tidings,” or “a sacrifice offered in thanksgiving for such good tidings having come.” Therefore, the “gospel” signifies NOT ONLY the message of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (the “good news”), BUT ALSO our response (i.e. obeying the plan of salvation).

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 is not the gospel if you take away from it or add to it. It will not work if you do that! Paul says in Galatians 1:8 that those who mix God’s message with men’s ideas, creating a “perverted gospel,” are accursed. (These Judaizers of Paul’s day did not deny Christ; they merely changed the plan of salvation preached by his Apostles.)

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.

Jesus Christ would be angered by most “gospel” messages that are being preached today, mainly because they lack nearly all the major points that He and the Apostles preached on!

There are now as many variations on the plan of salvation as there are denominations – a logical and theological nightmare! So we have dealt with the problem by saying that “we’re all going to the same place, so let’s forget doctrine and just love Jesus!” The problem with this approach is simple – IT IS WRONG! There are not two, ten or twenty ways to be saved – there is only the Bible way to be saved. What matters is not my opinion, your opinion, or your pastor’s opinion – just God’s opinion!

**“Accept the Lord as your personal Savior” is NOT IN THE BIBLE!
The issue is not that WE accept God, it is that GOD accepts us!**

Ephesians 1:6 *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

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!

There are “three that bear witness” – the Spirit, the water and the blood – and these three agree in one. (This is the view from Heaven, looking “backwards” – we experience “blood, then water, then Spirit.”)

That’s why there were THREE ELEMENTS involved in the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt ... BLOOD ON DOORPOST, RED SEA, PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE (BLOOD, WATER, SPIRIT).

Exodus 12:13 *And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the **blood**, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*

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**;*

That’s why there were three pieces of furniture involved in ATONEMENT in the Tabernacle (the other three pieces were involved in worship) ... BRAZEN ALTAR, BRAZEN LAVER, ARK OF THE COVENANT (BLOOD, WATER, SPIRIT)

And that’s why Paul said that the gospel has THREE ELEMENTS ...

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:*

Therefore, the ORIGINAL ALTAR CALL of the New Testament Church contains ALL THREE ELEMENTS of salvation (blood, water, Spirit) ...

Acts 2:38 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**.

REPENTANCE is the first action step that we take toward salvation. Repentance is a personal but often public step bringing about positive results in our lives. Because we have a sinful nature, and have committed sinful acts, it is **essential** that we repent.

- **Repentance is not the same as PENANCE, which is doing certain acts of devotion required by a priest to receive “absolution” for sin. This is not Biblical, but merely religious tradition.**

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

- **Repentance is not merely “feeling sorry” for your sins, although that is part of it. It is this “godly sorrow” that LEADS us to repent! Real repentance causes us to make many changes in our lives.**

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

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

- **Repentance is essential for salvation. God wants to save us, but requires us to respond to His love by turning from sin.**

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

- **When I repent, I am applying the DEATH of Christ to my life, making it effective in me!**

Romans 6:6-7 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.