

**I What is the Gospel?**

**A Definition**

*“Gospel” in the Greek is “euaggelion” and means “good message”. The verb form “euaggelizō” means to announce good news (“evangelize”) especially the gospel: - declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel).<sup>1</sup>*

**B Although the gospel is referred to in several ways, there is ONLY ONE GOSPEL.**

1 Paul is very clear that there is only one faith, and that one faith comes as a result of only one gospel.

***Ephesians 4:4-6***

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

2 Paul was amazed that the Galatians were turning away from Jesus to “another” gospel which he referred to as “perverted”.

***Galatians 1:6***

*I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.*

**C It is the good news that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!**

***1 Corinthians 15:1-4***

*Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*

**D It is the gospel of the kingdom of God preached to ALL nations.**

1 There is NOT one gospel to the Jews and another gospel to the Gentiles.

***Matthew 24:14***

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

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<sup>1</sup> **Note at Acts 20:24 in Andrew Wommack's Living Commentary**

*Paul also found joy because he was preaching the Gospel. The word "Gospel" is specifically singling out the nearly-too-good-to-be-true news of God's unconditional love and grace. If Paul had been preaching the bad news of religion, he wouldn't have had joy. Legalism and religion is bad news.*

**E It is the gospel of peace with God.**

- 1 The gospel is good news about good things from a good God.

**Romans 10:15**

*And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

- 2 This gospel of peace with God is a weapon of our warfare.

**Ephesians 6:15**

*And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.*

- 3 Good news!!! God is not at war with us. He is not mad at us.

**Romans 5:1**

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- 4 The gospel of peace with God is that of reconciliation (peace).

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

**F It is the gospel of grace of God toward us resulting in salvation.**

- 1 Paul was not ashamed of the gospel.

**Romans 1:16-7**

*For I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, for it is the power of God for **salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

- 2 Paul referred to the gospel as the "gospel of the grace of God" and "the word of His grace".

**Acts 20:24, 32**

*"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the **gospel of the grace of God**. . . <sup>32</sup> "And now I commend you to God and to the **word of His grace**, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ("The word of His grace" IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.)*

**Galatians 1:6 6**

*I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the **grace of Christ**, to a **different gospel**.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*For by **grace** you have been **saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God**; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (It is the grace of God that brings salvation; thus, the grace of God is the gospel of God.)*

**3** This gospel of the grace of God was foretold.

**1 Peter 1:10**

*As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries.*

**4** This gospel of grace came.

**Titus 2:11**

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.*

**5** The gospel of grace is spreading.

**Colossians 1:5-6**

*Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth.*

**2 Corinthians 4:15**

*For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.*

**G** The gospel is the good news that we are completely and forever forgiven by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. All sins are forgiven: past, present, and future.

**Galatians 1:3-4**

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,*

**Colossians 2:13**

*When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,*

**Hebrews 10:10, 12, 14**

*By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...<sup>12</sup>but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD...<sup>14</sup>For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

**Hebrews 10:15-17**

*And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying,*

<sup>16</sup>**"THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM**

**AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD:**

**I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART,**

**AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM,"**

*He then says,*

<sup>17</sup>**"AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS**

**I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."**

**2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

*Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup>namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- H The gospel is the good news that the Father, Son, AND Holy Spirit permanently live in us.

**Colossians 2:9-10**

*For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup> and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*

**Galatians 1:15-16**

*But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles.*

**Colossians 1:27-28**

*to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

- I The gospel is the too-good-go-be-true news that we are the righteousness of God by faith and not by works.

- 1 We are made righteous by Christ's obedience to the cross, not by our works of righteousness.

**Romans 5:19**

*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*

- 2 Because we are by faith righteous, we live.

**Romans 1:16-17**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

- 3 We are not just righteous as some of those were declared in the Old Testament. We are the very righteousness of God Himself.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- 4 Neither we nor the law can make us righteous, "right", before God. Jesus puts an end to all self-righteousness and all law-based righteousness.

**Romans 10:3-4**

*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. <sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

- J The gospel is the good news that God loves us. (More on this later.)

**II Don't fall for a "different" gospel.**

**A Paul was in awe that the Galatian believers would leave Jesus for another message.**

*Galatian 1:6*

*I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel.*

**B Here are some of the "other" gospels commonly taught today.**

- 1 You are saved by grace through faith, but guided by the Law.
- 2 You are saved by grace through faith, but can improve your relationship with God through religious self-effort most commonly taught as the "spiritual disciplines".
- 3 You are saved by grace through faith, but in order to be holy, you must keep all the do's and don'ts.
- 4 You are saved by grace through faith, but if you ever want to be anything in God or see a real revival in your city or nation, you must strive and fast and pray and groan and grunt and intercede and beg God to move.

**C These different gospels nullify God's grace.**

*Galatians 2:21 Amplified*

*[Therefore, I do not treat God's gracious gift as something of minor importance and defeat its very purpose]; I do not set aside and invalidate and frustrate and nullify the grace (unmerited favor) of God. For if justification (righteousness, acquittal from guilt) comes through [observing the ritual of] the Law, then Christ (the Messiah) died groundlessly and to no purpose and in vain. [His death was then wholly superfluous.]*

**D These different gospels sever us from Christ.**

*Galatians 5:4*

*You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*

**E When we believe in another gospel, we open ourselves for deception.**

*Galatians 3:1-3 Amplified*

*O YOU poor and silly and thoughtless and unreflecting and senseless Galatians! Who has fascinated or bewitched or cast a spell over you, unto whom--right before your very eyes--Jesus Christ (the Messiah) was openly and graphically set forth and portrayed as crucified? <sup>2</sup>Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the [Holy] Spirit as the result of obeying the Law and doing its works, or was it by hearing [the message of the Gospel] and believing [it]? [Was it from observing a law of rituals or from a message of faith?] <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish and so senseless and so silly? Having begun [your new life spiritually] with the [Holy] Spirit, are you now reaching perfection [by dependence] on the flesh?*

**F Let those who teach another gospel be accursed.***Galatians 1:8 Amplified**But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to and different from that which we preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)! (<sup>8</sup>But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!) (ex communicated)**2 Corinthians 11:20 Amplified**For you endure it if a man assumes control of your souls and makes slaves of you, or devours [your substance, spends your money] and preys upon you, or deceives and takes advantage of you, or is arrogant and puts on airs, or strikes you in the face.***III Then, what should we do?****A Stand fast in your liberty!***Galatians 5:1**It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.***IV The glad tidings of good things is the gospel of God's love for us which He showed for us by sending His Son and giving Him up in death.****A This act still demonstrates His love for us today. We do not need further proof or signs. This one gospel of His love is sufficient.<sup>2</sup>***Romans 5:8**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***B Our own goodness and perfect living does not qualify us for His love.****C His love for us is separate from our current circumstance. He does not show us how much he loves us by blessing us, and He does not show His displeasure through negative experiences. We should not interpret our circumstances, positive or negative, as an indicator of God's love. He just loves us. This is a constant fact.****D We need to let the grace of God infiltrate every aspect of our Christian walk.**

1 It is dangerous to only understand grace on a surface level. We think, "I know I'm the righteousness of God," but this can be only head knowledge and not heart knowledge. We need to know AND believe the love God has for us. It needs to filter into and affect our lives. It isn't a teaching...it is our life. The church tends to make grace an aspect of doctrine and not our very life. If they can box grace, they can set it aside. Grace is not a doctrine, it is the extremely good news of God's love for us.

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<sup>2</sup> There is a false gospel today of those who seek "manifestations" of God's love for us through metaphysical and mystic means. This is an insult to God who still chooses to demonstrate His love through the gospel of His Son's death and resurrection.

- 2 Some say grace teachers are imbalanced. Well grace IS IMBALANCED...entirely in our favor...that's the nature of grace. We didn't and we still don't deserve it. He pours it on us abundantly.

**John 3:16**

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

**Ephesians 3:19**

*And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*

**Romans 5:5**

*And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

**1 John 3:1**

*See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God;*

**1 John 3:16**

*We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

**1 John 4:9-11**

*By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live*

*through Him.<sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

**Galatians 2:20**

*And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

**Romans 5:8**

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Ephesians 2:4**

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*

**1 John 4:16-17**

*We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.<sup>17</sup>By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.*

**V Make the gospel of God's grace that Paul taught YOUR Gospel.**

**A Paul referred to the gospel he taught as "our" gospel.**

**2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**

*But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. <sup>14</sup>It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**B Paul so identified with the gospel he taught, he called it his.**

**Romans 2:16**

*On the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.*

**Romans 16:25**

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past.*