

# Proclaiming The Gospel



## Sermons Related To Proclaiming The Gospel Of Christ

This material is from [ExecutableOutlines.com](http://ExecutableOutlines.com), a web site containing sermon outlines and Bible studies by Mark A. Copeland. Visit the web site to browse or download additional material for church or personal use.

The outlines were developed in the course of my ministry as a preacher of the gospel. Feel free to use them as they are, or adapt them to suit your own personal style.

**To God Be The Glory!**

**Executable Outlines, Copyright © Mark A. Copeland, 2010**

# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Table Of Contents

<b>Are We Ashamed Of The Gospel?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Are We Preparing For The Gospel?</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Are We Preaching The Gospel?</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Have You Heard The Gospel?</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Have You Believed The Gospel?</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Have You Obeyed The Gospel?</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Have You Received The Gospel?</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Have You Examined The Gospel?</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Have You Perverted The Gospel?</b>	<b>25</b>

**Note:** Lesson 4 presents the gospel in brief; lessons 5-7 examines the facts, commands, and promises of the gospel in more detail.

# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Are We Ashamed Of The Gospel?

### INTRODUCTION

1. Shortly before ascending to heaven, Jesus gave His apostles the Great Commission...
  - a. To preach the gospel to every creature - **Mk 16:15-16**
  - b. To make disciples of all the nations - **Mt 28:19-20**
2. It was a mission taken seriously by the early disciples...
  - a. From the beginning, at Jerusalem - **Ac 2:36-39**
  - b. Even when persecution forced them to flee - **Ac 8:4-5; 14:5-7; 20:24**
  - c. Thus the message of the gospel spread throughout the world - **Ro 10:16-18; Col 1:23**

[But what about today? Are we proclaiming the gospel of Christ as we should? To our friends, to our neighbors? To those in our communities, to those in other places? If not, perhaps we should ask...]

### I. ARE WE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL?

#### **A. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME...**

1. **You personally shared the gospel with someone?**
  - a. Not just discussed some religious subject
  - b. But actually talked about the gospel of Jesus Christ
  - c. Is sharing the gospel no longer a priority for you today?
2. **You heard the gospel preached a “gospel meeting”?**
  - a. Many churches no longer have gospel meetings per se
  - b. Many churches announce them as such, but then ask the preacher to edify the saved
  - c. Is evangelizing the lost no longer a priority for churches today?

#### **B. MIGHT WE BE ASHAMED....**

1. **Of Jesus and His words? - Mk 8:38**
  - a. Jesus postulated that some might be ashamed of Him and His words
  - b. Perhaps through influence by a sinful and adulterous generation
  - c. Our generation has become increasingly sinful, are we embarrassed to talk about Jesus?
2. **Of appearing foolish to others? - 1Co 1:18,22-23**
  - a. Paul admitted that the message of the cross is foolishness to many
  - b. Preaching Christ crucified can be both a stumbling block and foolishness
  - c. Many people today consider religion foolish, are we ashamed to talk about Jesus?

#### **C. WHO ARE WE TRYING TO PLEASE...**

1. **Men or God? - Ga 1:10**
  - a. Paul posited that we either please men or God
  - b. If we are concerned with pleasing men, we are not servants of Christ
  - c. Who are we trying to please today - family, friends, neighbors, co-workers?
2. **Why some would not confess Jesus - Jn 12:42-43**
  - a. Even though they believed in Jesus
  - b. They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God

- c. Whose praise do we seek today: man's or God's?

[There may be other reasons why proclaiming the gospel is not priority for many Christians today, but I suspect many are simply ashamed of what others might think. Yet let me offer reasons...]

## **II. WHY WE SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED**

### **A. THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD...**

1. **Which is why Paul was not ashamed of the gospel - Ro 1:15-16**
  - a. Why he was ready to preach the gospel
  - b. Even to those in Rome who had already heard it
2. **Because it contains incorruptible seed - 1Pe 1:23-25**
  - a. Through which one is born again
  - b. The Word of God, which lives and abides forever
  - c. Like the rest of God's Word, it is living and powerful - He 4:12

### **B. THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER TO SALVATION...**

1. **Salvation from our past sins - Ro 3:23; 6:23**
  - a. Of which we are all guilty
  - b. Of which we stand in danger
2. **Salvation from the present storms - Mt 7:24-27; 1Co 10:13**
  - a. With words, when obeyed, help us weather the storms of life
  - b. With God's care, when received, will deliver us from evil
3. **Salvation from the future judgment - 2Co 5:10; Ro 5:8-9**
  - a. A judgment we shall all face
  - b. A judgment without wrath for those in Christ

### **C. OTHER REASONS NOT TO BE ASHAMED...**

1. Jesus is not ashamed to call us brethren - He 2:11
2. God is not ashamed to be our God - He 11:16
3. That we not be ashamed at the Lord's coming - 1Jn 2:28

## **CONCLUSION**

1. There may be other reasons why many Christians do not share the gospel...
  - a. Cares, riches, or life's pleasures may have a strangle-hold on them - Lk 8:14
  - b. Hearts hardened by the deceitfulness of sin may be the problem - He 3:12
  - c. Simple apathy may be a reason - Re 3:15-17
2. But if it because we are embarrassed or ashamed...
  - a. There is no good reason to be ashamed of the gospel of Christ
  - b. Even if it means having to suffer ridicule, rejection, even persecution

For the message we proclaim is the most important message in the world! It is more important than the cure for cancer, the solution to world hunger, etc. It is the message that saves souls for eternity...!

# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Are We Preparing For The Gospel?

### INTRODUCTION

1. Assuming that we are not ashamed of the gospel, let me now ask...
  - a. Are we preparing for the gospel?
  - b. Are we doing things that increase opportunities for sharing the gospel?
  
2. What is the most effective way to reach people today? The Institute For American Church Growth asked over 10,000 people this question: **“What was responsible for your coming to Christ and this church?”** Their replies were:
 

a. I had a special need - 3%	e. I liked the Bible classes - 5%
b. I just walked in - 3%	f. I attended a gospel meeting - 0.5%
c. I liked the minister - 6%	g. I liked the programs - 3%
d. I visited there - 1%	h. <b>A friend or relative invited me - 79%</b>
  
3. The obvious point of the survey is this: **the best opportunities for evangelism comes through the efforts of individual Christians!**

[This lesson suggest **three simple steps** to increase opportunities for sharing the gospel with relatives, friends, neighbors, and others. The first step is to...]

### I. DO GOOD

#### **A. JESUS DID GOOD...**

1. He “went about doing good” - **Ac 10:38**
2. His primary task was to preach the gospel - **Mt 4:17,23**
3. But doing good increased His opportunities to do so - **Mt 4:24-25**

#### **B. DOING GOOD DOES GOOD...**

1. It encourages people to glorify God - **Mt 5:16**
2. Especially in the day of visitation (e.g., when they hear the gospel) - **1Pe 2:12; cf. Ac 15:14**
3. It makes people more likely to ask, “Why do you do what you do?” - cf. **1Pe 3:15-16**

#### **C. SO LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE...**

1. Be zealous for good works - **Tit 2:14; 3:1,8**
2. Especially toward those in need - **Tit 3:14**
3. So do good, for your family, in your neighborhood, at work or school - **Ga 6:10**

[The next step may seem simple, but it is significant...]

### II. UTILIZE A PRAYER LIST

#### **A. AN EFFECTIVE TOOL...**

1. It is a technique used by successful people in all walks of life (having a “things to do” list)
2. It helps focus attention upon those we hope to reach, and not neglect them

## **B. MAKING THE LIST...**

1. **Start with those who are close** to you and work outwardly:
  - a. Family, friends
  - b. Neighbors, coworkers
  - c. Relatives of fellow church members
  - d. Regular visitors to the services of the church
  - e. Casual acquaintances (mailman, store clerk, etc.)
2. **Other suggestions**
  - a. Limit the list to five or eight names (otherwise you may be unable to focus your efforts)
  - b. Give priority to the “unchurched” (inactive members of any denomination or religion)
  - c. Keep this list where you will see it daily

## **C. PRAY FOR THOSE ON YOUR LIST DAILY...**

1. **The importance of such prayers**
  - a. It is God who gives the increase when it comes to evangelism - **1Co 3:6-7**
  - b. We are but servants whom God can use in His providential workings - **1Co 3:5**
  - c. So though we may work as though it all depends upon us, let us pray as though it all depends upon God!
2. **Pray that God will work together with you:**
  - a. To give you **opportunities** to do good for them - **Col 4:3**
  - b. To give you **wisdom** to make the most of those opportunities - **Col 4:4-6**
  - c. To give you **boldness** to say what needs to be said - **Ep 6:18-20**
3. **Pray that those on your list will have:**
  - a. **Opportunity** to hear the truth
  - b. **Honest hearts** to be open and receptive to the truth

[The third step is...]

## **III. INVITE THEM TO CHURCH**

### **A. AN IMPORTANT TASK...**

1. They will (should) have **an opportunity to see a congregation** in action
  - a. Combined with your own demonstration of love as an individual...
  - b. ...the demonstration of love by others should make a lasting impression!
2. They will more likely have **an opportunity to be presented with the gospel**
3. If they are attending regularly before conversion to Christ, **they will more likely continue to attend after conversion**

### **B. INVITING PEOPLE TO SERVICES...**

1. **First spend time in prayer:**
  - a. Asking for **wisdom** to invite them in the best manner
  - b. Asking for **boldness** to offer the invitation to attend
2. **People will more likely accept your invitation:**
  - a. If they are among the **unchurched**
  - b. If they are **dissatisfied** with where they are attending and are willing to investigate a different church
  - c. If you have already been **hospitable** to them in various ways
3. **Be persistent:**

- a. Invite time and again
- b. Your perseverance will more likely be rewarded

**C. BE HOSPITABLE TO VISITORS...**

**1. Why this is important:**

- a. By their presence, people are expressing an interest and/or willingness to learn
- b. By your warm welcome, you are preparing their hearts for the seed of the gospel
- c. The Lord has provided “an open door”; dare we not take it?

**2. How to show hospitality toward visitors:**

- a. Arrive early for services
  - 1) Visitors are more likely to arrive early, and leave early
  - 2) If you come in late, you may not have an opportunity to visit
- b. Be friendly to all visitors
  - 1) Those invited by you, someone else
  - 2) Or are simply walk-ins
- c. Give priority to visiting with guests over visiting with brethren
  - 1) You can always visit with brethren later
  - 2) This may be the only opportunity to make an impact with the visitors
- d. In extending hospitality, do what is within your ability:
  - 1) Greet them, letting them know they are welcome
  - 2) Invite them home or out for a dinner or snack
  - 3) Call, write, or visit them after they have attended the services

**CONCLUSION**

- 1. Three simple steps...
  - a. Do good
  - b. Utilize a prayer list
  - c. Invite to services
- 2. Offered with both a **conviction** and a **prayer**...
  - a. A conviction that opportunities to share the gospel will be greatly increased!
  - b. A prayer that we will accept the challenge to implement these steps

Are we doing what we can to prepare ourselves to reach out to the lost with the gospel of Christ...?

# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Are We Preaching The Gospel?

### INTRODUCTION

1. Previously, we have examined whether...
  - a. We are ashamed of the gospel
  - b. We are preparing for the gospel
2. Many Christians do reach out to the lost; yet I often wonder...
  - a. Are we actually preaching the gospel as commissioned by Jesus? - **Mk 16:15**
  - b. Might our efforts, though well-intentioned, actually be misdirected?

[Despite our zeal to fulfill the Great Commission, might we not actually present the gospel as the Lord intended? To explain what I mean, let's first review some common...]

### I. EVANGELISTIC METHODS

#### **A. SURVEY OF THE BIBLE...**

1. Presents an overall survey of the Bible story
2. Revealing how the gospel fulfills God's plan of redemption
3. Generally a multi-lesson approach, though sometimes presented in one lesson

#### **B. NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH...**

1. Focuses on identifying the true church today, or non-denominational Christianity
2. Reviews the establishment, organization, work and worship of the church in the Bible
3. Contrasts the New Testament church with denominations today

#### **C. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED...**

1. Describes the proper response to the gospel of Christ
2. Presumes understanding the need for the gospel and other related facts
3. Usually with an emphasis on the role of baptism in the plan of salvation

[Such methods have been used with varying degrees of success. Yet I often wonder whether we've made evangelism more complicated than it need be. Allow me to raise a few...]

### II. EVANGELISTIC QUERIES

#### **A. FIRST OR SECOND PRINCIPLES...?**

1. There are first or elementary principles of the gospel - cf. **He 5:12; 6:1-2**
2. Much of what we often share may belong to the category of second principles
3. E.g., the identity of the church, its work, worship, etc.
4. Such is important, but shouldn't we stress the first principles first?
5. Most of what we learn about the church was written to Christians, not preached to alien sinners (cf. the sermons in Acts with the epistles)
6. If one is unwilling to obey the Lord regarding first principles (e.g., baptism), are we not wasting our time trying to get them to accept the secondary principles of the Word?



## **B. THE GOSPEL IN PART OR WHOLE...?**

1. The gospel is more than simply telling people **what** they must do to be saved
2. There are commands to obey, yes, but also facts to believe and promises to receive
3. Such facts and promises provide motivation to obey - cf. **Ro 2:4; 2Co 5:11,14**
4. Do we deprive ourselves of the power of the gospel to convict the sinner, by assuming they understand **why** they need to be saved and **how** God saves them through His promises?

## **C. THE GOSPEL ABORTED...?**

1. Multi-lesson approaches often do not reveal the gospel until the end of the series
2. Circumstances or controversies often terminate a study before getting to the actual gospel
3. Do we miss opportunities to share the gospel by allowing such to happen?

[This is not a blanket condemnation of evangelistic approaches described earlier. I have used such often with some success. Yet I wonder if I have always made the best use of my time and opportunities. With these thoughts in mind, permit me to share the following...]

## **III. EVANGELISTIC PRINCIPLES**

### **A. SHARE THE FULL GOSPEL...**

1. Make sure that we are sharing the gospel of Christ in its fullness
2. Not just **commands** to obey, but **facts** to believe and **promises** to receive
3. So we do not deprive ourselves of the full **power** of the gospel - **Ro 1:16**
4. Fruit is born when one **understands** the grace of God in truth! - **Col 1:5-6**

### **B. FOCUS ON FIRST PRINCIPLES...**

1. In the words of Paul: "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" - cf. **1Co 2:2**
2. You might want to prepare a simple presentation of the gospel in tract form
3. Stressing the facts, commands, and promises of the gospel
4. Saving the second principles for those willing to obey the first principles

### **C. SOW THE SEED LIBERALLY...**

1. As you sow, so shall you reap - cf. **2Co 9:6**
2. Be prepared to share the gospel at anytime
3. Consider various ways to share the gospel in person and en masse
4. Utilize tracts, DVDs, mailings, whatever works for you

### **D. MOVE ON IF NOT RECEPTIVE...**

1. As taught by Christ - **Lk 10:10-11**
2. As practiced by Paul - **Ac 13:44-46; 18:6**
3. Once the gospel has been shared, if not received or there is no further interest, we should look elsewhere
4. Though we can keep the door open should interest return

### **E. DON'T FORGET TO PRAY...**

1. For opportunities - **Col 4:2-6**
2. For wisdom - **Jm 1:5**
3. For boldness - **Ep 6:18-20**
4. Remembering that God gives the increase - **1Co 3:5-7**

## **CONCLUSION**

1. I do not mean to be overly critical of other ways to reach the lost...
  - a. If a multi-lesson approach works well for you, wonderful!
  - b. If you feel it best to cover second principles, don't let me stop you
  
2. The important thing is to sow the seed of the gospel! That precious message...
  - a. Of God's love, Christ's sacrifice, and our response
  - b. Shared with as many people as possible
  - c. Which can be taught rather simply if we focus on the first principles of the Word

Are we preaching the gospel of Christ? That is the task given to us...

***And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." - Mk 16:15-16***

# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Have You Heard The Gospel?

### INTRODUCTION

1. Have you heard the most important news in the world...?
  - a. I am referring to the gospel of Jesus Christ!
  - b. A message that Jesus wants everyone to hear! - cf. **Mk 16:15**
2. Perhaps you believe you have heard the gospel...
  - a. Are you sure it was the pure and simple gospel of Jesus Christ?
  - b. Not some perverted gospel based on teachings of men rather than the Word of God?

[In this lesson you will be presented with the gospel Jesus wants you to hear, the most important news in the history of mankind! But first, let's go over a few...]

### I. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

#### **A. GOSPEL MEANS GOOD NEWS...**

1. The Greek word is **euaggelion**
2. In the NT, it is spoken only of the glad tidings of Christ and His salvation (cf. **Lk 2:10**)  
- **Complete WordStudy Dictionary**

#### **B. THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S POWER TO SAVE...**

1. Paul wrote that the gospel "is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes"  
- **Ro 1:16**
2. It tells how to be saved from our sins and the wrath of God to come

#### **C. BEWARE OF FALSE GOSPELS...**

1. Even in the first century, there were different gospels that distorted the gospel of Christ - **Ga 1:6-9**
2. Are you sure that you have heard the true gospel of Christ?

#### **D. THE GOSPEL MUST BE OBEYED...**

1. Peter raised the question, "what will be the end of those who do not **obey the gospel** of God?" - **1Pe 4:17**
2. Paul answers that there will be terrible consequences for "those who do not **obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ" - **2Th 1:7-9**

[Are you sure that you have obeyed the gospel of Christ? With these preliminary considerations in mind, let's now examine the gospel, noting first that...]

### II. THERE ARE FACTS TO BELIEVE!

#### **A. JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS...**

1. According to the Scriptures, Jesus died for our sins - cf. **1Co 15:1-3**
2. Paul likely had reference to Isaiah, written 700 years before Jesus' death - **Isa 53:4-6**

**B. JESUS WAS BURIED AND RAISED...**

1. His burial and resurrection from the dead were foretold by Scripture and attested to by many eyewitnesses - **1Co 15:4-8**
2. If Jesus was not raised from the dead, they were false witnesses and our faith is in vain - **1Co 15:14-15**

**C. JESUS IS LORD AND KING...**

1. He has been exalted to sit at the right hand of God, and rules as Lord - **Ac 2:33-36**
2. He is King of kings and Lord of lords - **1Ti 6:13-15; Re 1:5; 17:14**
3. He now has all authority in heaven and on earth - **Mt 28:18; Ep 1:20-22; 1Pe 3:22**

**D. JESUS IS COMING AGAIN...**

1. He is returning as promised, to judge the world in righteousness - **Ac 1:9-11; 17:30-31**
2. To be ready for the day of judgment, we must obey the gospel! - cf. **2Th 1:7-9**

[**Note well:** salvation is by the grace and mercy of God (**Ep 2:8-9; Tit 3:4-7**). One obeys **not to earn** salvation, but **to receive** it! And so, the gospel of Christ tells us...]

**III. THERE ARE COMMANDS TO OBEY!**

**A. WE MUST BELIEVE THE GOSPEL...**

1. Otherwise, we will be lost - **Mk 16:15-16; Ro 1:16**
2. We must believe (trust) in Jesus who died for our sins - **Jn 1:29; 3:16,36; 8:24**
- **Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?**

**B. WE MUST CONFESS OUR FAITH...**

1. Confessing that Jesus is Lord is necessary for our salvation - **Ro 10:9-10; Mt 10:32-33**
2. It is called the good confession - e.g., **Ac 8:37; 1Ti 6:12**
- **Have you confessed your faith in Jesus Christ?**

**C. WE MUST REPENT OF OUR SINS...**

1. This means to make the decision to turn from our sins
2. Jesus wanted repentance proclaimed in His name to all nations - **Lk 24:46-47**
3. His apostles did this faithfully - **Ac 2:38; 3:19; 17:30**
- **Have you repented of your sins?**

**D. WE MUST BE BAPTIZED FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS...**

1. Jesus made baptism an integral part of His gospel - **Mt 28:19-20; Mk 16:15-16**
2. His preachers faithfully proclaimed the need to be baptized - **Ac 2:38; 22:16**
3. His apostles wrote of the significance of baptism - **Ro 6:3-7; Ga 3:27; Col 2:12-13; Tit 3:4-7; 1Pe 3:21**
4. Baptism is an immersion in water - **Ac 8:36; 10:47-48**
  - a. The Greek word is **baptizo** which means to “to immerse”
  - b. It is intended for penitent believers - **Ac 2:38; 8:36-37**
  - c. For those who seek to have their sins washed away by the blood of Jesus - **Ac 22:16; Ep 1:7; 1Pe 3:21**
5. Many have distorted the gospel by removing the command to be baptized
- **Have you been scripturally baptized for the remission of your sins?**

**E. WE MUST REMAIN FAITHFUL...**

1. Obeying the gospel of Christ is just the beginning
  2. There are many things Jesus wants us to know and do - **Mt 28:19-20**
  3. We must remain faithful to Christ if we want to receive the crown of life - **Re 2:10**
- **Are you willing to be faithful to Jesus?**

[To encourage one to obey the gospel...]

**IV. THERE ARE PROMISES TO RECEIVE!**

**A. THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS...**

1. By the blood of Jesus, our sins are washed away, blotted out - **Ac 2:38; 3:19; 22:16**
  2. Thus we enjoy forgiveness of sins, according to God's grace - **Ep 1:7**
- **Don't you want to be forgiven of every sin you've committed?**

**B. THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE...**

1. The wages of sins is death - **Ro 6:23**
  2. But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ! - **Ro 6:23; 1Jn 5:11-13**
- **Don't you want the assurance of eternal life when you die?**

**C. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...**

1. Jesus and His apostles promised the gift of the Holy Spirit - **Jn 7:37-39; Ac 2:38-39**
  2. Children of God enjoy the blessings of the Spirit at work in their lives - **Ga 4:6; 5:22-23**
- **Don't you want the blessing of the Spirit in your life?**

**D. THE FAMILY OF GOD...**

1. In Christ we are blessed to have many brothers and sisters - **Mk 10:28-30**
  2. This refers to the church, which is the family of God - **1Ti 3:15**
  3. This family encourages us to remain faithful - **He 3:12-14**
- **Don't you want to be a part of the wonderful family of God?**

**CONCLUSION**

1. There are more blessings, too numerous to list, for both this life and hereafter...
  - a. Don't you want to receive the **promises** of the gospel?
  - b. Why not **believe** the gospel and **obey** the gospel today?
2. How can you be sure this is the pure and simple gospel of Christ...?
  - a. In the book of Acts, you can read detailed examples of conversions
  - b. In each case, those who heard the gospel culminated their faith-repentance by being baptized!
  - c. In a later study, we shall examine a number of these accounts of conversion
3. **How about you...?**
  - a. You have heard the gospel, and what you must do in order to be saved
  - b. The responsibility of your salvation now rests with you

If you desire to study these things further, or to be baptized into Christ today, let us know...!

# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Have You Believed The Gospel?

### INTRODUCTION

1. The gospel of Jesus Christ is “good news”...
  - a. News that Jesus wanted everyone to hear - **Mk 16:15**
  - b. News that can cause one to be “born again” - **1Pe 1:23-25**
2. But it is news that must not only be heard, but **believed**...
  - a. Thus the gospel contains **facts to believe**
  - b. Which requires understanding and conviction concerning those facts

[What are the gospel’s “facts to believe”? According to **1Co 15:1-3**, foremost is the fact that...]

### I. JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS

#### **A. THE PROBLEM OF SIN...**

1. The Bible defines sin as transgression of God’s law - **1Jn 3:4**
  2. It also includes failing to do what one knows is good - **Jm 4:17**
  3. The Bible declares that all have sinned - **Ro 3:23**; cf. **1Jn 1:8,10**
  4. Even one sin makes one guilty - **Jm 2:10**
  5. The consequences of sin are grave (spiritual death) - **Isa 59:2**; **Ro 6:23**; **Re 21:8**
  6. Everyone is a sinner, even the “religious” need saving! - e.g., **Ac 10:1-2**; **11:14**
- **Do you believe that you are a sinner?**

#### **B. THE SOLUTION FOR SIN...**

1. Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures - **1Co 15:1-3**; cf. **Isa 53:4-6**
  2. This was because God loved us, even when we were sinners - **Ro 5:6-8**
  3. In love, God offered Jesus as a propitiation for our sins - **1Jn 4:9-10**
  3. It was also to satisfy God’s righteousness (justice) - **Ro 3:23-26**
- **Do you believe that God loves you, and that Jesus died for your sins?**

[So we must believe that Jesus died for our sins. Also foundational to the gospel of Christ is that...]

### II. JESUS WAS BURIED AND ROSE AGAIN

#### **A. THE FACT OF HIS RESURRECTION...**

1. Attested to by the Scriptures - **1Co 15:4**; cf. **Ps 16:10-11**
  2. Attested to by eyewitnesses - **1Co 15:5-8**; cf. **Ac 2:32**; **3:15**
  3. Supported with empirical evidence - **Ac 1:3**; **10:39-41**; **1Jn 1:1-4**
  4. Supported by eyewitnesses who refused to recant despite suffering hardship - **2Co 6:4-10**
- **Do you believe that Jesus was buried and rose again?**

#### **B. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS RESURRECTION...**

1. The Christian faith depends on the resurrection as historical fact - **1Co 15:14-19**
2. It verifies our justification, that Jesus’ blood is sufficient - **Ro 4:24-25**; **Mt 26:28**

3. It gives us hope concerning our resurrection - **1Pe 1:3,21; 1Th 4:13-14**
- **Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?**

[Not only must we believe Jesus died for our sins, was buried and rose again, but also that...]

### **III. JESUS IS LORD AND KING**

#### **A. HE HAS BEEN EXALTED...**

1. To sit at the right hand of God, ruling as Lord - **Ac 2:33-36**
2. He is King of kings and Lord of lords - **1Ti 6:13-15; Re 1:5; 17:14**
- **Do you believe that Jesus reigns from heaven above?**

#### **B. HE NOW HAS ALL AUTHORITY...**

1. In heaven and on earth - **Mt 28:18; Ep 1:20-22; 1Pe 3:22**
2. Over our lives and the things we do - **Ro 14:6-8; Col 3:17,23**
3. Thus He expects to do what He says - **Lk 6:46**
- **Do you believe that Jesus has all authority over your life?**

#### **C. HE EXERCISES HIS AUTHORITY THROUGH HIS APOSTLES...**

1. He commissioned them to teach His doctrine - **Mt 28:20**
2. To receive them is to receive Jesus, and ultimately, God - **Jn 13:20; 1Co 14:37**
3. Which the early Christians did faithfully - **Ac 2:42; 1Th 2:13**
- **Do you believe that Jesus rules through His apostles' words today?**

[Accepting the apostles' word as revealed in the New Testament as authoritative, the gospel also calls us to believe that...]

### **IV. JESUS IS COMING AGAIN**

#### **A. HE IS RETURNING AS PROMISED...**

1. By the two men in white apparel (angels) as Jesus ascended - **Ac 1:9-11**
2. By His apostles in their writings - **1Th 4:16; Re 1:7**
- **Do you believe that Jesus is coming again?**

#### **B. HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD...**

1. He is coming to judge the world in righteousness - **Ac 10:42; 17:30-31**
2. It will be day of righteous indignation for many - **Ro 2:5,16**
3. When we shall have to appear the judgment seat of Christ - **2Co 5:10**
- **Do you believe that you will have to answer to Christ when He returns?**

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Such are the facts proclaimed in the gospel of Christ
2. Do you believe the gospel of Christ as preached by His apostles?

If you do, then there is only one proper response: **“Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Ac 2:37).** In our next lesson, we shall consider carefully the commands of the gospel to obey...

# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Have You Obeyed The Gospel?

### INTRODUCTION

1. The gospel contains glad tidings concerning Jesus and His salvation that we must **believe**...
  - a. Jesus died for our sins
  - b. Jesus was buried and rose from the dead
  - c. Jesus is now Lord and King
  - d. Jesus is coming again to judge the world
2. But it is imperative that we not only **believe** the gospel but also **obey** the gospel...
  - a. Eternal salvation is for those who obey Christ - **He 5:9**
  - b. What the apostle Paul calls “the obedience to the faith” - **Ro 1:5; 16:26**
  - c. An obedience that must come “from the heart” - cf. **Ro 6:17**
  - d. Otherwise, eternal destruction awaits us! - **2Th 1:7-9**

[What are the gospel’s “commands to obey”? First and foremost...]

### I. WE MUST BELIEVE

#### **A. BELIEVE THE GOSPEL...**

1. We must believe the gospel Jesus wants us to hear - **Mk 16:15-16**
  2. The gospel has the power to save, but only for those who believe it - **Ro 1:16-17**
- **Do you believe the glad tidings concerning the salvation in Christ Jesus?**

#### **B. BELIEVE IN JESUS...**

1. We must believe (trust) in Jesus, that He died for our sins - **Jn 1:29; 3:16,36**
  2. Otherwise, we will die in our sins! - **Jn 8:24**
- **Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who died for your sins?**

[The importance of faith cannot overemphasized. But obedience to the gospel requires that we acknowledge such faith; therefore...]

### II. WE MUST CONFESS

#### **A. CONFESS JESUS AS LORD...**

1. To confess means to acknowledge, normally done with the mouth
  2. To confess Jesus as Lord is necessary for our salvation - **Ro 10:9-10; Mt 10:32-33**
- **Is your faith in Jesus sufficient to confess Him before others?**

#### **B. THE GOOD CONFESSION...**

1. Confessing Jesus before others is called the “good confession” - **1Ti 6:12-13**
  2. An example of such a confession is that made by the Ethiopian eunuch - **Ac 8:37**
- **Have you made the good confession before others?**

[When we believe and confess our faith, we are obeying the gospel of Christ! But our obedience does not stop there...]



### III. WE MUST REPENT

#### A. THE COMMAND...

1. Jesus wanted repentance proclaimed in His name to all nations - **Lk 24:46-47**
2. His apostles did this faithfully - **Ac 2:38; 3:19; 17:30**
- **Have you repented?**

#### B. WHAT IT MEANS...

1. Repentance means “a change of mind”, to make a decision
2. In particular, making the decision to turn from sin and turn to God
3. A decision prompted by godly sorrow, leading to salvation - **2Co 7:9-11**
- **Has godly sorrow for your sins moved you to repentance?**

[Once faith in Jesus and godly sorrow moves us to make the decision to turn from our sins and turn toward God, we are ready for the command that culminates our obedience to the gospel...]

### IV. WE MUST BE BAPTIZED

#### A. IMMERSION IN WATER AND SPIRIT...

1. Jesus made baptism integral to His gospel - **Mt 28:19-20; Mk 16:15-16**
2. It is intended for penitent believers - **Ac 2:37-38; 8:36-37**
3. Baptism (**baptizo = immerse**) is an immersion in water - **Ac 8:36; 10:47-48**
4. Thus it was described as involving a burial - **Ro 6:3-4; Col 2:12-13**
5. Baptism also involves the Holy Spirit - **Tit 3:5; 1Co 12:13**
6. Thus it involves two elements: water and Spirit - **Jn 3:5**
- **Have you been born again of water and the Spirit?**

#### B. FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS...

1. Forgiveness of sins is made possible by the blood of Christ - **Ep 1:7**
2. In baptism we are buried with Christ into His death - **Ro 6:3-4**
3. Through God’s working, we are raised with Christ, forgiven of sin - **Col 2:12-13**
4. Thus baptism was done **for (eis = into, to, for)** the remission of sin - **Ac 2:38; cf. Mt 26:28**
5. Thus it was said that baptism “washes away sins” - cf. **Ac 22:16**
- **Have you been scripturally baptized for the remission of your sins?**

[When the penitent believer in Christ rises from the watery grave, by the grace and mercy of God the blood of Christ has cleansed them from their sins! But obedience to the gospel does not end there...]

### V. WE MUST REMAIN FAITHFUL

#### A. BAPTISM IS THE BEGINNING...

1. There are things Jesus wants us to know and do - **Mt 28:19-20**
2. Such as the importance of assembling with other Christians - **He 10:24-25; e.g., Ac 20:7**
2. We must remain faithful to Christ if we want to receive the crown of life - **Re 2:10**
- **Are you willing to be faithful to Jesus?**

#### B. THE DANGER OF APOSTASY...

1. If it were not possible to fall away, why the warnings? - **2Pe 3:17**
2. It is possible to become hardened by sin, thus the need to be steadfast - **He 3:12-14**

-- Are you willing to remain faithful to Jesus?

## CONCLUSION

1. These are the commands of the gospel proclaimed by Jesus and His apostles...
  - a. We must believe
  - b. We must confess
  - c. We must repent
  - d. We must be baptized
  - e. We must remain faithful
  
2. Have you obeyed the gospel proclaimed by Jesus and His apostles...?
  - a. Not a gospel altered by man that eliminates some of the commands
  - b. But the pure and simple gospel of Christ as revealed in the Bible

Only those willing to obey the **commands** of the gospel can have the assurance of receiving the **promises** of the gospel. These promises we shall examine more closely in our next lesson...

# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Have You Received The Gospel?

### INTRODUCTION

1. We have examined how the gospel contains...
  - a. **Facts to believe** concerning Jesus Christ
  - b. **Commands to obey** given by Christ and His apostles
2. The good news of the gospel also contains...
  - a. **Promises to receive**
  - b. Blessings enjoyed by those who believe and obey the gospel

[These blessings serve to encourage one to respond to the gospel of Christ with faithful obedience. The blessings are numerous, but let's focus on just a few, beginning with...]

### I. THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

#### **A. DESCRIBED IN DIFFERENT WAYS...**

1. "remission of sins" - **Ac 2:38**
  2. "taken away" - **Jn 1:29; Ro 11:27**
  3. "blotted out" - **Ac 3:19**
  4. "washed away" - **Ac 22:16**
  5. "covered" - **Ro 4:7**
  6. "not imputed" - **Ro 4:8**
  7. "set free" - **Ro 6:17-18**
  8. "purged" - **He 1:3; 2Pe 1:9**
  9. "remembered no more" - **He 8:12**
- **Illustrating how completely God has dealt with the problem of sin!**

#### **B. AVAILABLE ONLY IN CHRIST...**

1. By God's grace, through the blood of Christ - **Ep 1:7**
  2. Because of God's love - **1Jn 4:10**
  3. To satisfy God's sense of justice (righteousness) - **Ro 3:24-26**
  4. A blessing that continues in Christ as we confess our sins - **1Jn 1:9**
- **Don't you want the assurance that your sins are forgiven?**

[To further encourage one to obey the gospel, there is...]

### II. THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

#### **A. CERTAINLY NOT WHAT WE DESERVE...**

1. What we deserve ("earn") is death - **Ro 6:23**
  2. This death is spiritual death; ultimately, the "second death" - **Re 21:8**
  3. But God graciously gives us the "gift" of eternal life - **Ro 6:23**
- **What do you prefer: what you deserve, or what God graciously offers?**

## **B. A FUTURE HOPE AND PRESENT POSSESSION...**

1. Eternal life is spoken of as a future hope - **Mt 25:46; Mk 10:30; Ro 6:22; Tit 1:2**
    - a. That which is received “at the end”
    - b. That is, eternal life with God and all the redeemed
  2. Eternal life is also spoken of as a present possession - **1Jn 5:11-13,20; Jn 17:3**
    - a. That which is received “now”
    - b. That is, a quality of life based on our relationship with God and Christ, which is consummated more fully in eternity!
- **Don't you want to experience eternal life, both now and in eternity?**

[Another promise or blessing that we receive by obeying the gospel is...]

## **III. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **A. THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT...**

1. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit - **Jn 7:37-39**
  2. Likewise the apostles - **Ac 2:38; 5:32**
- **This promise of the Spirit is unique to the Christian age**

### **B. THE BLESSING OF THE SPIRIT...**

1. Engenders a loving relationship with God - **Ga 4:6; Ro 8:14-16**
  2. Empowers the Christian as God's instrumental agent - **Ep 3:16; Ro 8:12-13**
  3. Enables the Christian to produce wonderful fruit - **Ga 5:22-23; Ro 15:13**
  4. The indwelling Spirit does this in conjunction with the Word of God - **1Co 6:19; Ep 6:17**
- **Don't you want the aid of the Spirit to help you live the godly life?**

[With the blood of Christ for forgiveness, the power of the Spirit for strength, God helps with our struggle against sin. Another help in our struggle received in obedience to the gospel is...]

## **IV. THE FAMILY OF GOD**

### **A. THE PROMISE OF FAMILY...**

1. Jesus described those who were His real family - **Mt 12:48-50**
  2. He promised a large family for those willing to follow Him - **Mk 10:28-30**
  3. This family is the church, the house of God - cf. **1Ti 3:15; 5:1-2**
  4. Those who obey the gospel are added to this family (church) - cf. **Ac 2:41,47**
- **Don't you want to be of a part of the family of God?**

### **B. THE BLESSING OF FAMILY...**

1. We have God as our Father, who loves and comforts us - **1Jn 3:1; 2Co 1:3-4**
  2. We have Jesus as our Brother and High Priest - **He 2:11-12,17-18**
  3. We have the Spirit who engenders familial love of God - **Ro 5:5; 8:14-16; Ga 4:6**
  4. We have fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, to encourage and help us carry our burdens - **1Ti 5:1-2; He 3:12-16; Ga 6:1-2**
- **Don't you want the aid of God's family in your life?**

## **CONCLUSION**

1. These are just a few of the promises given to those who obey the gospel...

- a. The forgiveness of sins
  - b. The gift of eternal life
  - c. The gift of the Holy Spirit
  - d. The family of God
2. Such promises are blessings for both this life and hereafter...
- a. Making this life one of true peace and contentment
  - b. Making death and what follows not something to be feared, but anticipated!

Don't you want to receive the **promises** of the gospel? Then why not **believe** and **obey** the gospel of Jesus Christ today...?

# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Have You Examined The Gospel?

### INTRODUCTION

1. We have presented the gospel of Christ as containing...
  - a. **Facts to believe**
  - b. **Commands to obey**
  - c. **Promises to receive**
2. How can you be sure this is the pure and simple gospel of Christ...?
  - a. Especially in regards to **baptism for the remission of sins?**
  - b. For many deny that baptism has any role in our salvation

[To confirm that baptism is indeed integral to the gospel plan of salvation, one can **examine** the gospel more closely by first considering...]

### I. THE EXAMPLES OF CONVERSION

#### **A. THE BOOK OF ACTS...**

1. Contains the historical record of the first 30 years of the church
2. Describes the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem throughout the Mediterranean world
3. Contains detailed examples of preaching the gospel and resulting conversions

#### **B. EXAMPLES OF CONVERSION... ([see chart](#))**

1. Let's examine the ten examples of conversion
  - a. In which the Great Commission is being carried out
  - b. As the apostles and preachers of the Lord preached the gospel
2. Note what the scriptures reveal about these conversions
  - a. In each case the gospel was preached, people heard the gospel
  - b. Some accounts, but not all, record that people believed, repented, confessed Christ
  - c. But in every case, mention is made of their being baptized!
3. Might this be for a reason? An indication of Divine providence, perhaps?
  - a. Knowing that one day many would downplay baptism's significance?
  - b. Thus the Spirit saw fit to inspire Luke to mention baptism in each case?

#### **C. OTHER OBSERVATIONS...**

1. Many say baptism is not necessary because it is not mentioned in some salvation passages - e.g., **Jn 3:16; Ac 16:31; Ro 10:9-10**
2. Yet those same passages do not mention **repentance**, should we therefore say that repentance is not necessary? Of course not! - cf. **Ac 3:19; 17:30**
3. Just as **faith** is not always mentioned in the examples of conversion, that is no reason to ignore what is revealed elsewhere regarding faith - e.g., **Jn 8:24; 20:30-31**
4. So it is with **baptism** - we determine it's necessity...
  - a. Not by passages where it is not mentioned
  - b. But by passages where it is mentioned!

[Having examined the examples of conversion, let's now examine what the Bible reveals about...]

## II. THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISM

### A. BAPTISM AND THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN...

1. Forgiveness of sins is through the blood of Jesus and grace of God - **Ep 1:7; 2:8-9**
    - a. Without the blood of Christ there is no forgiveness of sins
    - b. We cannot earn or merit our salvation in any way
  2. Such forgiveness is promised to those who repent and are baptized - **Ac 2:38; 22:16**
    - a. Those who respond in baptism are assured their sins will be forgiven
    - b. In some way, through baptism we receive forgiveness through Jesus' blood
- **Baptism is thus connected with forgiveness of sins in the Scriptures!**

### B. BAPTISM AND THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...

1. There is the promise of the Spirit - **Jn 7:37-39; Ac 2:38-39**
    - a. Promised by Jesus to those who believe
    - b. Promised by Peter to those who repent and are baptized
  2. Baptism involves the working of the Holy Spirit - **1Co 12:13; Tit 3:5**
    - a. We are made to drink of the Spirit
    - b. We experience a washing of regeneration and renewing of the Spirit
- **In baptism, we benefit from the Spirit's aid in regeneration and sanctification!**

### C. BAPTISM AND UNION WITH CHRIST...

1. Union with Christ is necessary for spiritual life - **Jn 15:4-5**
    - a. We cannot bear fruit unless we abide in Christ
    - b. Without Christ we can do nothing
  2. In baptism we are united with Christ - **Ro 6:3-4; Ga 3:27**
    - a. Buried with Him through baptism into His death
    - b. We put on Christ in baptism
- **Baptism is the means by which we receive Jesus through faith!**

### D. BAPTISM AND NEWNESS OF LIFE...

1. Newness of life is the result of dying to sin and rising with Christ - **Ro 6:3-7**
    - a. We die with Christ in baptism
    - b. As we rise from the watery grave, we rise to walk in newness of life
  2. In baptism we are buried with Christ, then made alive together with Christ - **Col 2:12-13**
    - a. Buried and raised with Christ, through faith in the working of God
    - b. It is God who makes us alive, having forgiven us all our trespasses
- **Baptism is not a work of man, but a work of God to which we submit!**

### E. BAPTISM AND SALVATION...

1. Baptism saves us - **Mk 16:16; 1Pe 3:21**
  - a. Many say baptism does not save us
  - b. Both Jesus and Peter say baptism does save us!
  - c. **Note well:** in every passage where baptism and salvation are mentioned together, baptism always precedes salvation!
2. How does baptism saves us? - **1Pe 3:21**; cf. **He 9:14**
  - a. Not through any cleansing of the flesh, as though the water itself has cleansing power
  - b. But as an appeal for a clear conscience, made possible by the blood of Christ

-- **Baptism is the sinner's plea for forgiveness, to which God graciously answers!**

**F. IF WHEN BAPTIZED, WE ARE...**

1. Buried with Christ into His death - **Ro 6:3-4**
  2. Raised with Him to newness of life - **Ro 6:4-5**
  3. Crucified with Him, thus made free from sin - **Ro 6:6-7,17-18**
  4. Clothed with (put on) Christ - **Ga 3:27**
  5. Washed from our sins - **Ac 22:16**
  6. Recipients of the remission of sins - **Ac 2:38**
  7. Baptized into the body (church) of Christ - **1Co 12:13**
- **Then what is our condition without baptism?**

**CONCLUSION**

1. Who can say baptism is not necessary when we examine...
  - a. The examples of conversion?
  - b. The doctrine of baptism?
2. Indeed, baptism is integral to the preaching of the gospel...
  - a. "In an apostolic sermon it comes as its logical conclusion." - **George Beasley-Murray, Baptism In The New Testament** (a well-known Baptist scholar)
  - b. "An effort ought to be made to restore this note in our (Baptist) preaching." - **ibid.**

Indeed, the role of baptism ought to be restored by **all** who have neglected to include this important element in the gospel of Christ! For in both practice and precept, in both example and exposition, baptism plays an integral part in our salvation by grace through faith.

So it was in the first gospel sermon preached after the resurrection of Christ:

***"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."***

***Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"***

***Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."***

***Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. - Ac 2:36-38,41***

Have you been baptized (immersed) for the remission of your sins? If not, then you need baptism, and should heed the same words of Ananias spoken to Saul of Tarsus:

***"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." - Ac 22:16***



# Proclaiming The Gospel

## Have You Perverted The Gospel?

### INTRODUCTION

1. In writing to the churches of Galatia, the apostle Paul expressed concern...
  - a. Marveling they were turning so soon to a different gospel - **Ga 1:6**
  - b. Letting themselves be troubled by some perverting the gospel of Christ - **Ga 1:7**
2. It is important to know the difference between the pure gospel and perverted gospels...
  - a. To accept a different gospel is to be accursed - **Ga 1:8-9**
  - b. To not obey the true gospel is to face condemnation - cf. **2Th 1:7-8; 1Pe 4:17**

[Today we need to be just as concerned about **perversions of the gospel**. Are we aware of how some have perverted the gospel of Christ? There has been at least four such perversions, beginning with...]

### I. THE GOSPEL OF FAITH PLUS THE LAW

#### **A. THIS PERVERSION EXPLAINED...**

1. This perverted 'gospel' was the problem Paul faced in his day
2. Some Jewish Christians demanded that Gentiles had to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses as well as obey the gospel of Christ - **Ac 15:1-5; Ga 2:1-5**

#### **B. THIS PERVERSION REFUTED...**

1. At the council in Jerusalem - **Ac 15:22-31**
2. In the epistle to the Galatians - **Ga 5:1-6**
3. In other epistles of Paul (e.g., Romans, Colossians)

[Note carefully that those who seek to be justified by the Law fall from grace (**Ga 5:4**). This illustrates the danger of accepting a 'perverted gospel'. Another perverted 'gospel' is...]

### II. THE GOSPEL OF WORKS WITHOUT FAITH

#### **A. THIS PERVERSION EXPLAINED...**

1. This 'gospel' developed later in the course of church history
2. It exalted the efficacy of certain ordinances to the exclusion of faith
3. Thus some believed you could baptize others without the need of faith
  - a. Such as **infant baptism**
  - b. Such as **infidel baptism** (e.g., at the point of a sword)

#### **B. THIS PERVERSION REFUTED...**

1. Faith is essential to pleasing God and our salvation - **He 11:6; Jn 8:24; Mk 16:16**
2. Repentance of sins and faith in Christ are prerequisites to baptism - **Ac 2:38; 8:35-37**
3. It is faith in the working of God that results in rising to a new life - **Col 2:12-13**

[A popular perversion of the gospel is what we will call...]

### III. THE GOSPEL OF GOOD WORKS ONLY

#### A. THIS PERVERSION EXPLAINED...

1. Many have the idea that as long as you are a basically ‘good person’, you will be saved
2. Especially if your ‘good deeds’ outnumber or outweigh your ‘bad deeds’
3. Thus a good moral person, especially if religious, is assumed to be saved

#### B. THIS PERVERSION REFUTED...

1. Good moral people, even devout, are in need of salvation
  - a. Cornelius was a good, moral, devout man - **Ac 10:1-6**
  - b. Yet he needed to be saved - **Ac 11:14**
2. Many examples of conversion in Acts involved religiously devout people
  - a. The 3000 on the day of Pentecost - **Ac 2:5**
  - b. The Ethiopian eunuch - **Ac 8:27**
  - c. Lydia of Thyatira - **Ac 16:14**
  - d. Paul - **Ac 22:3**
3. We cannot be saved by our good works - **Ep 2:8-9; Ti 3:4-7**

[Sometimes a perversion of the gospel leads others to overreact with another perversion...]

### IV. THE GOSPEL OF FAITH ONLY

#### A. THIS PERVERSION EXPLAINED...

1. This ‘gospel’ proclaims that one is saved by “faith only”
2. I.e., no obedience is required, especially not baptism
3. An overreaction to salvation by works without faith, or to the gospel of good works

#### B. THIS PERVERSION REFUTED...

1. The gospel of Christ requires obedience
  - a. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him - **He 5:9**
  - b. Paul proclaimed what he called “the obedience of faith” - **Ro 1:5; 16:25-26**
  - c. Paul and Peter warned of those who obeyed not the gospel - **2Th 1:7-9; 1Pe 4:17**
  - d. We are not saved by “faith only” - cf. **Jm 2:17,20,24,26**
2. Many fail to distinguish between different kinds of works
  - a. **Works of the Law** (of Moses), by which one is not justified - **Ga 2:16**
  - b. **Meritorious works**, done to earn salvation, which is impossible - **Ep 2:8-9; Ti 3:4-7**
  - c. **Works of God**, commanded of us to please Him - cf. **Jn 6:28-29**
3. Works of God are done, **not to earn** salvation, **but to receive** God’s grace
  - a. Faith in Jesus is a work of God - **Jn 6:29**
  - b. Repentance of sins is a work of God - **Ac 17:30**
  - c. Confessing Jesus is a work of God - **Ro 10:9-10**
  - d. Such works in of themselves do not save us - cf. **Lk 17:10**
4. So **baptism is a work of God**, not a work of man
  - a. Commanded by Jesus and His apostles - **Mk 16:15-16; Ac 2:38; 22:16**
  - b. In which God does the work of saving - **Col 2:11-12; Tit 3:5**
  - c. In which we put on Christ - **Ga 3:26-27**
  - d. Which, when obeyed, causes others to thank God - **Ro 6:17-18; cf. Ro 6:3-7**

### CONCLUSION

1. There have been other perverted gospels...
  - a. Such as **Gnosticism**, which denied Jesus coming in the flesh
  - b. Such as **Mormonism**, which proclaims a different gospel based upon 'angelic revelation'
2. We need to be careful to receive the gospel preached by the apostles...
  - a. Even angelic revelations are to be rejected if different from what the apostles' preached
  - b. Otherwise we will be accursed
3. The pure gospel of Christ may not be popular, but who are we trying to please...?
  - a. If it is men, then we are not true servants of Christ - **Ga 1:10**
  - b. If it is the majority, we are on the wrong path - **Mt 7:13-14**

Is the gospel you heard, believe, obeyed, and received, the same gospel proclaimed by the apostles of Jesus Christ...? - cf. **Ac 2:36-41; 8:35-38**