

# The Gospel

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## INTRODUCTION:

### A. Two Questions:

1. “How is your relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ?”
2. “What if the Lord were to come right now; would you know for sure, nothing doubting, that you would go to Heaven?”

### B. The Bible says we can know.

1. **I John 5:13** - “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life . . .”
2. We can know by the things that are written.
3. Therefore, we must know what has been written.

### C. In every community, there are churches and precious people believing different things, even some contradictory things, some just plain wrong things. They believe that what they believe all came from the Bible, and yet, they each feel they are going to Heaven to live with God after a while.

### D. In life, there are some statements that we call “life and death” statements.

1. **EXAMPLE:** At 3:00 in the morning someone is pounding on your window screaming, “Get out of the house, the house is on fire.”
  - a. That would indeed be a life and death statement. I have seen charred bodies that failed to get out of a fire.
  - b. That would be a life and death statement because your life is at risk depending on how you respond and react to that statement.
  - c. You would not have to have someone come over and give you their interpretation of what had just been yelled through your bedroom window.
  - d. It needs not interpretation . . . It just needs for you to get up and obey it.
2. **ILLUSTRATION:** Large mad dog in front yard - your children playing in back yard.

## GOD HAS SOME LIFE AND DEATH STATEMENTS IN THE BIBLE

### A. Jesus said in **John 8:24** - “. . . Except you believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.”

1. This tells us that if we do something versus if we do not, there will be the consequences of our dying in our sins.
2. Some believe that it doesn't really matter what people believe. This passage begs to differ.
3. It does matter what we believe, and there are consequences for not believing what really matters.
4. It is important that we know who Jesus is and believe in Him.

5. Matthew 16:13-18 in the region of Caesarea Philippi.
  - a. “Who do people say I am?” Elijah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, or one of the prophets.
  - b. “Who do you say I am?”
  - c. Peter answered: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
  - d. Jesus told Peter that God had revealed that truth to him.
  - e. Jesus is claiming that He is the Son of the One Who is in heaven.
6. **John 1:1** - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
7. “Who was this Word? **John 1:14** - “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”
8. When Jesus came to the earth, did He just come as a man? Did He leave His Godhead in Heaven while He was here? **Colossians 2:9** - “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” Another translation says “in bodily form.” At the same time He was man on earth, He was also God on earth.
  - a. **Hebrews 1:8** (Which is a quote from Psalm 45:6) God is calling His own Son God - “But to the Son He says: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever . . .”
9. **John 8:58** - “. . . Before Abraham was, I AM.”
  - a. Where did Jesus get that name? Where did He get that term?
  - c. In Exodus 3 God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and told to turn around and go back into Egypt and reed the Israelites. He asks the name of the One who is commissioning Him. The voice answered in **Exodus 3:14** - **I Am Who I am . . . the Lord God.** “I am” was a name. He said that before Abraham was, He was.
10. Look back at that life and death statement in **John 8:24** - “Except you believe that I am *he*, you will die in your sins.”
  - a. The pronoun “he” is in italics, meaning that it was added by the translators for clarity.
  - b. Now, read the verse again without the added word, “he.” “Except you believe I am, you will die in your sins.”
  - c. Jesus is saying something very specific here. He is saying, except you believe that I am Jehovah God, you will die in your sins.
  - d. So, does it matter what we believe concerning Jesus Christ’s identity? Definitely yes!
11. Have you ever wondered why God had to come to the earth to save us?
  - a. The Bible says in **1 Timothy 2:5** - “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”
    1. What is a mediator? A go-between. A middle man.

2. **ILLUSTRATION:** A pylon of the Sunshine Skyway bridge was hit by a ship. They closed off both ends of the bridge. Why? A bridge is worthless unless it touches both shores.
  3. **ILLUSTRATION:** Truck driver running into the Tennessee River.
  4. In understanding who Jesus is, it is important that we understand that Jesus is both God and Man.
    - a. He touches both shores—Heaven and earth.
    - b. He is our go-between.
    - c. As God, He touches Heaven’s shore. As man, He touches earth’s shore.
    - d. He is the foundation of our hope. He is the only One who is able to get us home from earth to Heaven.
  12. Concerning His identity, it wasn’t enough to believe that He was Elijah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, or one of the other prophets because they could not get themselves home, much less anybody else. They touched only one shore, the human shore.
    - a. Their identity was wrong.
    - b. They were good men, but that wasn’t enough.
  13. Because Jesus is God He touches God’s shore. Because he is man, He touches ours. That’s why, that’s how He is able to get us all the way home to Heaven.
  14. **Matthew 3:16-17** - “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.  
 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am pleased.”
    - a. Three persons of the Godhead are manifested in this passage.
      1. Jesus was in the water being baptized.
      2. The Holy Spirit was in the form of a dove.
      3. God spoke from Heaven.
    - b. Jesus was God . . . Jesus IS God!
- B. Another life and death statement: **Romans 1:16** - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation . . .”
1. The gospel IS the POWER of God to SAVE.
  2. What is the gospel?
    - a. Some say it is living the Christian life. Living the Christian life is not the Gospel . . . it is the response to the gospel.
    - b. Some say it is the whole Bible.
  3. The Bible interprets itself. The Bible tells us what the gospel is.

- a. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** - “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,  
 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain.  
 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,  
 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Note: The Bible says that the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

4. What did God have to do all these things in Jesus Christ in order to save us . . . in order for the gospel to be God’s power?
1. The Bible says you and I have a sin problem.
    - a. **Isaiah 59:1-2** - “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.  
 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”
      1. Our sins have separated us from God and caused Him to hide His face from us.
    - b. **Ephesians 1:3** - “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
      1. Why did Jesus have to go to the cross and die and shed His blood? (The first part of the gospel)? Because we have a sin problem.
      2. In dying, Jesus took away our sin problem that had separated us from God.
      3. God cannot stand contamination . . . cannot have it in His presence.
      4. That was the predicament. But in the shedding of Christ’s blood in removing our sin problem, we can be with God because the contamination is no more.
    - c. **Jude 24** - “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”
      1. The blood of Jesus removes our sin problem and we are presented faultless before God.
      2. That means that I am without fault before Him.
      3. It is as if I have never sinned one time in my whole life.
      4. I am as clean as I was the very day in which I was born.
      3. That means in the blood of Christ I can be presented before God as faultless.

5. That’s what the blood of Jesus Christ does for us.
- d. We all know that we sin. In fact, John said if we say that we do not sin, we make God out to be a liar. But through the blood of Jesus Christ, God looks at us as if we have never sinned. **ILLUSTRATION:** It is as if He looks at us through red glass lens and looks at us through the blood of Christ. God is handling this in His own judicial system.
1. As God looks at us through the blood of Christ in His own judicial system, it is as if the contamination was never there.
  2. That is how He can draw us to Himself.
  3. We are justified. To define that biblically speaking, in the blood of Christ it is just-as-if-I’d . . . never sinned the first time.
  4. We compute sin . . . God imputes righteousness to us so He can draw us to Himself.
  5. That is why Jesus had to die on the cross, shedding His blood, for in doing so, He took care of our sin problem.
5. After His death Jesus was buried in a tomb. Why did He not remain there? Why did he have to rise out of the tomb?
1. **1 Corinthians 15:20-23** - “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.  
 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.  
 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.”
    - a. Jesus conquered the human grave.
    - b. Jesus came out of the grave to be our conqueror so we could conquer our own graves someday.
    - c. The Bible teaches that our bodies will be changed so as to be prepared for that heavenly realm.
  - d. **1 Corinthians 15:43-44** - “It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”
  - e. **1 Corinthians 15:53-57** - “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.  
 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”  
 55 ‘O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’  
 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- f. Jesus in conquering His own grave opened the way for our own graves to be conquered.
- g. **2 Timothy 1:10** - “. . . Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”
  1. Through the gospel:
    - a. Through His death he brings us spiritual life.
    - b. One of these days we will have immortality.
- h. **Romans 5:10** - “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”
  1. When Jesus, through His death, removed our sin problems, we are once again reconciled to God.
  2. Reconciliation means “to make friends again.”
  3. Thank God for the gospel of Christ as He:
    - a. Takes care of our sin problem—We have been “Reconciled to God through His death.”
    - b. Takes care of our grave problem—“We shall be saved by His life.”
  4. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Romans 1:16

## DO YOU WANT TO GET IN ON THE SALVATION FOUND IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST?

A. There is a faith response that God demands.

1. You must believe. **Romans 10:9** - “. . . If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead (that’s the gospel), you will be saved.”
  - a. If you believe the gospel, that is what he is saying.
2. This is a life and death statement. If you do not believe you will perish.

B. You must repent.

1. **Luke 13:3 & 5** - “Except you repent you will perish.”
  - a. This is another life and death statement.
  - d. Without repentance you will perish spiritually).
2. Hebrews 6:18 tells us that God cannot lie. We had better watch what God says.
3. There are some things we must give up.
4. Repentance means changing your life.
4. Another life and death statement: **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** - “And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

a. Who is going to Hell?

1. Those who do not know God.

2. Those who do not obey the gospel?

C. How do we obey the gospel?

1. What is the gospel? The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

2. How do you obey the gospel . . . how do we re-enact those events?

3. We MUST do it or it is everlasting destruction.

4. How do we obey the gospel? The Bible interprets itself.

### **CONCLUSION:**

A. The precious Gospel of the precious Christ . . . and it is for you.

B. God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation