

How, When, and Where Do We Obey the Gospel?

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 Gospel is defined in **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** as the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

1. When a person obeys the gospel, he is obeying the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ?
2. The question becomes, “How, where, when, do we obey the gospel?” . . . “How, where, when do we obey the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ?”
3. Let the Bible answer that question . . . Let the Bible interpret itself.

C. **Romans 6:3-4** - “. . . Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?” (His death is the first part of the gospel.) Lets read on. “Therefore we were buried (That’s the second part of the gospel) with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead (That’s the third part of the gospel) by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

1. **Romans 1:16** tells us that “. . . The gospel is God’s power unto salvation.”
2. In Romans 6:3-4 do you not see how God tells us humans to:
 - a. Get into His power.
 - b. Get into His salvation.
 - c. Obey the gospel . . . that is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. We do all three of these things when we are baptized into Christ.
 - a. We are baptized into Jesus’ death.
 - b. We are buried (not sprinkled . . . not poured) with Him through baptism into death
 - c. That we might then experience the subsequent resurrection.
4. Look at the passage again: **Romans 6:3-4** - “. . . Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

D. Why would God want us to get into the death of Jesus Christ?

1. Let me ask you this: “Wasn’t it in the death of Jesus that He shed His precious blood?
 - a. Can a person be saved outside the precious blood of Christ?
 - b. If so, they can be saved outside of baptism.
 - c. No, you cannot be saved outside the blood of Christ.
 - d. According to the Bible, “. . . As many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death.” **Romans 6:3**
2. Another life and death statement is found in **Romans 6:5** - “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, (according to the Bible two verses earlier, we do that through baptism) certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”
3. Let’s read on: **Romans 6:6** - “Knowing this, (Where is our knower? Up here in our heads) that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”
 - a. The old man of sin is done away with in the crucifixion of Christ.
 - b. The old man of sin was contaminated with that which is contrary to the very nature of God.
 - c. How do we get into the death of Christ? How do we get into the crucifixion of Christ?
Romans 6:3 says it is through baptism.
 - d. God wants us to get into the death of Jesus because that is where the blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins.
4. **Galatians 3:26** - “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”
5. Look at the very next verse (**Galatians 3:27**) - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
 - a. According to the Bible, how does one become a Christian?
 - b. Where does one put on Christ?
 - c. The Bible says we do so when we are baptized into Christ.
 - d. The Bible teaches that we do not become Christians until we obey the gospel.
 - e. How do we obey the gospel?
 1. We are baptized into his death.
 2. We are buried with Him.
 3. We are raised to walk a brand new life with Him.
 - f. The Bible says that obeying the gospel is done through and in water baptism.
6. In Acts 2, the apostle Peter had the first opportunity, the first privilege of telling people about this gospel.

- a. **Acts 2:14** - “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.”
- b. **Acts 2:22-24** - “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”
 - a. What is Peter preaching?
 - b. Isn't he preach the death and resurrection of Jesus?
 - c. Isn't he preaching the gospel?
- c. **Acts 2:36** - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
 - a. Peter spent his whole sermon preaching and emphasizing the death and resurrection of the Lord our Christ.
- d. **Acts 2:37** - “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?”
 - a. Friends, a lot of the religious world believes that baptism is for saved people.
 - b. They believe they were saved prior to their baptism.
 - c. The Bible does not teach such a thing. In fact, the Bible teaches just the opposite.
 - d. The Bible does not teach that baptism is for saved people, the Bible insists that baptism is only for lost people.
 - e. Peter was preaching to lost people.
 1. Why were they cut to the heart, because they were saved? No, because they were lost.
 2. Did they cry out because they were saved? No, they cried out because they were lost.
 - f. In answer to they question, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” . . . What if Peter had said:
 1. “There is nothing that you can do.”
 2. “You crucified the Son of God.”
 3. “It made God sick to his stomach.”
 4. “You are going to die and go to hell for it.”
 The words Peter said in answering these lost peoples' question is this: **Acts 2:38** - “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you (everyone one of you who are lost) be baptized in the

name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- g. Look at **verse 41** - “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”
1. Was it the next Sunday?
 2. Was it two weeks later?
 3. It was that very same day.
 4. Why were they glad at what they had obeyed? Answer: Because they that they were lost without the gospel Peter was preaching.
- h. **Acts 2:42** - “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
- i. **Acts 2:44-47** - “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,
- 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
- 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
- 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
1. Now, here in Acts 2, for the first time, the church comes into existence.
 2. Prior to Acts 2 references to the church were always in the future tense.
 3. From Acts 2 and onward, throughout the New Testament, the church is spoken of in the present tense.
 4. The first day the gospel was preached, the church was born.
 5. What is the relationship between the gospel and the church? When one obeys the gospel, the Lord adds that one to the church.
 6. Who was added to God’s church?
 - a. Those who repented and were baptized into Christ.
 - b. Those who obey the gospel.
 - c. Those who reenacted the death burial and resurrection of Christ.
 7. Friends, the church is not the Savior . . . the church is where the Savior places the saved.
 8. **One does not become a member of the church in order to be saved, but rather one is a member of the church because he is saved.** The Lord added Him to it when he obeyed the gospel.

E. Discuss the importance of the Lord’s church.

CONCLUSION:

- A. There are two kinds of people.
 - 1. Saved people.
 - 2. Lost people
- B. Which kind are you?
- C. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**