



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Frequently Asked Question 1



“...the gospel of Christ...is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...” (Romans 1:16)

“...the gospel...by which also you are saved...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

The Gospel is NOT about Goodies (something good that we get from God). It is not about getting what we want from God, e.g. health and wealth. It is not about receiving help from God to free us from pain, deliver us from poverty or solve our problems.

The Gospel is NOT about Good Works (something good that we do for God). It is not about what we do to reach God through our effort, e.g. Christian ethics, moral behaviour or religious activities.

The Gospel is about Good News (something good that God has done for us). It is about what God has done to reach us through His effort. The word, Gospel, comes from the Greek word, euangelion, which means, “Good News”.

The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ dying and rising to save us from our sins (NOT pain, poverty or problems) in order to reconcile sinful man to the Holy God.

The Gospel consists of 3 truths and 1 decision:

1. The Problem of Sin

God created us to have a personal relationship with Him. However, sin has separated us from God and prevents us from having a relationship with Him. We are all sinners (Romans 3:10,23; Ecclesiastes 7:20) and have been sinners since birth (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12). We were born physically alive with a living body, but spiritually dead with a sinful nature and with no spiritual life in us (Ephesians 2:1). Our external physical circumstances do not change our internal spiritual condition, and what we do on the outside cannot bring spiritual life to the inside. Due to the problem of sin, we are unable to enter into a relationship with God and are disqualified from entering Heaven. There is nothing we can do on our own to bring us into a relationship with God and to make us good enough to enter Heaven.

2. The Penalty of Sin

One day, we will all have to stand before God and He will judge us individually (Hebrews 9:27). The penalty of sin is death (Romans 6:23a) – not just physical death, but spiritual death, i.e. eternal punishment in Hell (Revelation 20:14,15; 21:8). All of us deserve to be punished in Hell because all of us are sinners who have fallen short of God's standard of perfection. Just 1 sin would be enough to condemn us to Hell (Galatians 3:10; James 2:10), and there is no way we can save ourselves from sin, death and Hell.

3. The Payment for Sin

Although we deserve to receive the judgment of a just and holy God, God is love and He has made a way for us to be saved from our sins. Sin has separated us from God, but we are reconciled to God by the death of His Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8,10). Jesus Christ is God (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:23; John 1:1,14; 10:30; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8a) who came into the world to be our perfect Saviour (Matthew 1:21; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5). He accomplished a perfect work by dying on the cross to pay for ALL our sins – past, present and future sins (John 19:30; 1 John 1:7b), and then rose again on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:4), conquering sin, death and Hell forever, so that He may give us the perfect gift of a personal relationship with God (John 14:6) and eternal life in Heaven (Romans 6:23b).



4. The Decision of Faith

It is useless to merely understand and agree with these 3 truths (the Problem of Sin, the Penalty of Sin and the Payment for Sin), because understanding and agreement cannot save us from our sins. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus Christ (John 1:12; 3:16; Romans 3:28; 10:9,13; Galatians 2:16; 3:26; Ephesians 2:8,9). True saving faith is NOT believing about God (James 2:19), trusting in our own righteousness (Isaiah 64:6a), trusting in religious activities (Matthew 7:21-23) or believing in God for physical needs (James 4:3). True saving faith is DEPENDING on JESUS ALONE to save us from our sins, i.e. depending on Jesus + Nothing Else (the dependence must be only on Jesus to save and not on self-effort), NOT depending on Jesus + Something Else (e.g. self-effort through good works or religious activities).