

What is The Gospel?

Thousands of enthusiastic people in a huge convention facility, gospel music with a sound system so powerful that my ears hurt, endless vocalists, and much arm waving and rejoicing that 'we need only to believe on the name of the Lord Jesus, to be saved!'

Where was the teaching of Christ's message I had gone along to hear? It never came, and sadly this scenario is endlessly repeated around the world.

People like to hear about Christ. They like to be entertained by 'gospel music' and evangelists who call people to believe and 'get saved', to be 'born again', as they believe, and that euphoria was evident in the excited involvement of the crowds that evening. But this is what Christ predicted in Matthew 24:4-5, *'And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.'*

Many have indeed been deceived, so that almost all of professing Christianity has never heard the actual gospel message Christ brought, but rather just a message about Him. All they have received is a false gospel, and consequently a false salvation. This is nothing new; it started just a few years after Christ's death, as the Apostle Paul explains in Galatians 1:6, *'I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.'*

A precious few down the ages actually read about and understood the true gospel **directly from Christ's words**, fellowshiped together and passed on their beliefs to the next generation.

From the start they were called the Church of God, often persecuted but remaining a faithful little flock, always centred on the true gospel, Luke 12:32, *'Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.'*

Nevertheless, Christ promised that He would build, protect and preserve His Church down the ages - a church which would always look directly **to Him, the rock** referred to in this verse, Matthew 16:18, *'And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'*

They would always be found preaching the true gospel Christ brought, and those who believe that gospel and follow its instructions will be indeed saved, Mark 16:15-16, *'And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.'*

So, what is the gospel or 'good news' so neglected by the churches of the world? John the Baptist understood, and came preparing the way for Christ, Matthew 3: 1-3, *'In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'*

It is a message about a coming Kingdom here on this earth, in which, if we hope to participate, we need to repent!

It is this gospel which we need to believe, and act upon, if we hope to receive salvation, and be with Jesus Christ in that Kingdom. Mark 1:14-15, *'Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God**, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**'* And also in Acts 2:38, *'Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**'*

True religion is inspired by God the Father, who acts upon the hearts of those He wishes to call so that they of their own free will begin to follow His instructions. This is exactly the opposite of religions like Islam, where people are converted by the sword, which figures so much in the flags of Islamic nations, John 6:44, *'No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.'*

Around the world, God the Father, is calling **just a few** from all races today as part of His Plan, to act as Kings and Priests in their own nations in that coming kingdom, Revelation 5:10, *'And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.'* 20:4, *'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.'*

They will then pass on the knowledge and understanding of the way of life which results in happiness, joy and peace which Jesus Christ taught, but which is frowned upon by most professing Christianity, Ecclesiastes 12:13, *'Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.'* And 1 John 2:3-4, *'And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.'*

On the final return of Jesus Christ from Heaven it will be with those Christians who took part in the resurrection, Zechariah 14:5, *'And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.'*

This time He will come with all power and authority, Revelation 19: 14-16, *'And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.'* Before long then, the whole world will be under the rule of Christ and His Bride, the resurrected Christians who marry Christ in Heaven, before our Father's throne, Isaiah 11:9, *'They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.'* And Revelation 19:7, *'Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.'*

When will this world-ruling Kingdom be established? Mark 13:10, *'And the gospel must first be published among all nations.'* Will this be achieved by men? Matthew 24:14, *'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached **in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end*

*come.’, Revelation 14:6-7, ‘And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to **every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people**, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.’*

No, it can only be achieved by God’s great power, who, by an angel will deliver the message about Christ’s soon return, and the need to repent to all men and women worldwide through graphic dreams and visions, showing Christ’s return and the terrible punishment which will be poured out upon unrepentant mankind during the Great Tribulation.

This miraculous event will be the very first sign that the end-time, the last seven years before the establishment of Christ’s Kingdom here on earth, has started and it will shock the world, but even then few will actually repent in time.

This forewarning is part of that gospel, giving you the chance to prepare yourself now. Don’t be one of those who leave it too late!

To understand more read our article, ‘Dreams and Visions’, and ‘The Resurrection – When?’ on this website. To understand more about God’s Kingdom and where it will be, read our article ‘Return to Eden’.

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