

“THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST”

I. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

A. Definition

The word “gospel” is translated from a Greek word meaning “good message.”

B. Synonyms

What else is the gospel called?

1. **1st Peter 1:25**

The gospel is the “*word of the Lord*”.

1. **Hebrews 4:12**

God’s word is a powerful instrument.

2. **1st Peter 2:2**

The nourishment of the word allows for growth.

2. **Galatians 1:23-2:2**

The gospel is “*the faith*”. The definite article “the” indicates the singular nature of “*the faith*”, such that this cannot refer to subjective faith, but must refer to objective faith, the one and only system of belief which God expects us to keep.

a. **Ephesians 4:5**

The gospel is the “*one faith*”, exclusive of all other systems of belief.

b. **2nd Timothy 4:7**

It must be kept.

c. **Jude 3**

It ought to be fought for.

d. **1st Timothy 4:1; 5:8; 6:10, 21**

Sadly, “*the faith*”, or the gospel, can be departed from, denied, and strayed from.

3. **Ephesians 1:13; Colossians 1:3-5**

The gospel is *“the word of truth”*.

a. **John 1:17; 18:37**

Truth is what Jesus came to bring us.

b. **John 8:31-32**

Liberating truth is available in the knowledge of Christ’s word.

c. **John 14:6**

The truth that is Jesus provides access to God the Father.

D. Content

What does the gospel consist of?

1. **1st Corinthians 15:1-8**

The gospel consists of certain basic facts, namely:

a. *“Christ died for our sins”* (3).

i. **Romans 5:6-11**

The love of God is proven by the fact that Christ died for us while we were still His enemies, being ungodly, sinners.

ii. **John 15:13**

His sacrifice proves His friendship toward us.

b. *“He was buried”* (4).

i. **Acts 13:29**

As would be expected, He was buried after He was killed.

ii. **Matthew 27:57-66**

The fact of his burial is described in some detail, as well as the fact that His tomb was guarded. With the tomb so well secured, it would be very difficult to rob it in order to stage His resurrection.

c. *“He rose again the third day”* (4).

i. **2nd Timothy 2:8**

This is perhaps the most fundamental fact of the gospel.

ii. Matthew 28:1-6

Angels rolled the rock away to reveal an empty tomb.

iii. Romans 1:1-4

By His resurrection the Holy Spirit has declared Jesus Christ our Lord to be the very Son of God.

d. "He was seen" (5-8).

i. Acts 1:1-3

He was seen for over forty days, offering "*many infallible proofs*" of His resurrection.

ii. Acts 13:31

Those who saw Him were authorized to bear witness of the fact.

e. "According to the scriptures" (3-4).

i. Luke 24:44-47

The scriptures foretold of these events.

ii. 1st Peter 1:10-11

The ancient prophets who wrote the scriptures did not always fully comprehend what they wrote, but they did indeed write about Christ's suffering.

2. Romans 2:16

Our judgment by Christ is as much a fact of the gospel as is His death, burial, and resurrection.

a. John 5:22-29

Yes, Christ will judge.

b. Acts 17:30-31

Christ's resurrection offers us assurance that He will judge us. Therefore, we must prepare for judgment by repenting.

3. 1st Timothy 1:8-11

- a. The gospel includes law (8-9), or rules.
 - i. **1st Corinthians 9:21; Galatians 6:2**

The fact that we have been freed from the law of Moses should not be construed to mean that we are free from the law of Christ.
 - ii. **James 2:12**

There can be no judgment without law and we will be judged by “*the perfect law of liberty*”.
 - iii. **1st John 3:4; Romans 3:23**

Without law, there can be no sin, but all sin, so we must still be under some law.
- b. These rules amount to sound doctrine (10), that is: wholesome teaching.

E. Accomplishments

What does the gospel do?

- 1. **Romans 1:16**

The gospel is God’s power to save those who believe.
- 2. **2nd Timothy 1:8-10**

The gospel illuminates immortal life available to us in Christ.

F. History

- 1. **Revelation 14:6**

The gospel always has been and always will be.
 - a. **Titus 1:1-3**

God promised eternal life even before time began.
 - b. **Isaiah 51:6**

Salvation will last forever.
- 2. **Romans 16:25-27**

Although the gospel is everlasting, it was kept secret throughout time, only to be revealed in this last age.

a. **Colossians 1:24-26**

That which was once hidden has now been openly declared.

b. **Ephesians 3:1-12**

i. Earlier, it was unknown to men, but has now been revealed by the apostles and prophets (5).

ii. It remained hidden from the beginning (9).

iii. It has finally been revealed (10-11).

3. **Galatians 3:8**

Although it was hidden from the beginning, the gospel was proclaimed to Abraham, but how? It was presented to him as a promise, one which would be unfulfilled in his lifetime (Hebrews 11:39).

4. **Mark 1:1-15**

In the sense that it finally began to be fulfilled, the gospel had its beginning with the preaching of John and then of Jesus Himself.

5. **Colossians 1:23**

The gospel has been preached worldwide.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES TO IT

A. **2nd Thessalonians 2:13-14**

The call of the gospel must be answered.

1. **2nd Corinthians 4:3-6**

We must lift the veil; we must remove our blinders in order to see the truth.

2. **Hebrews 4:2**

The gospel cannot profit those who refuse to believe it.

B. **1st Peter 4:17**

Question: What will become of those who don't obey the gospel?

1. **2nd Thessalonians 1:7-9**

Answer: Those who do not obey the gospel will *“be punished with everlasting destruction”*.

2. **Romans 10:16**

Even so, many do not obey the gospel!

3. **Hebrews 5:9**

Jesus will only save those who obey Him, which means keeping His commands.

i. **John 6:45**

He commands that we learn.

ii. **John 14:1; 8:24**

He taught that we must believe.

iii. **Matthew 10:32-33**

He taught that we must confess Him.

iv. **Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:3, 5**

He taught that we must repent of our sins.

v. **Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:19**

He taught that we must be baptized.

C. **1st Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 1:21-23**

The gospel only saves those who continue in it.

1. **Philippians 1:27**

Live according to it.

2. **Galatians 1:6-9**

Preserve it.

3. **Mark 16:15-16**

Preach it.

4. **Philippians 1:17**

Defend it.