

Genuine Gospel

GOLD! A much sought after soft, yellow precious metal that for many centuries has been the monetary standard. **GOLD** has been and is used for a variety of things such as money, jewelry, dental, decoration, plated coating, paint, and much more. **GOLD** is so valuable that some people will do almost anything to get it, no matter what the cost may be. There's just no limit to what they will do for **GOLD!** They will try to buy it, steal it, prospect for it, risk their lives or the lives of others in getting it, or they will even kill for it: strangers, friends, or family, it matters not! Once they have it, they will do everything possible to protect it, while living in fear that another person will try to take it from them.

There's another kind of gold that, at first glance, looks like real gold but when examined more closely it turns out to be pyrite. Pyrite has another name; the nickname "fool's gold" because it looks so much like the real thing, which it is not. Many miners and prospectors thought they had found **GOLD**, but they did not. What they actually found was "fool's gold." How disappointed they must have been, especially after all the hard work that had been done and money wasted. How sad it must have been!

When we think of the religions of the world today, basically we have the same problem. On the surface a religion **MAY** appear like **GOLD**, or the real thing. However, when examined under the microscope of the Word of God it is revealed to be a "fool's gold" or more properly, a "fool's religion." There is **ONLY** one standard for measuring a religion, and that standard is the Word of God as found in the Authorized Version of 1611 (King James Bible). **ALL** of the other English versions of the Bible are corrupt and many people have been deceived by them, even many so-called Christian fundamentalists. Just like there is **ONLY** one real gold, so too, there is **ONLY** one real Gospel, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please, allow me to explain what I mean.

Some religions have tried to argue that they began before Christianity, which they did. **HOWEVER**, they did not exist before God! **BEFORE** the world as we know it existed, God was, and it was this same God Who created all that is. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:1-3) "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands." (Hebrews 1:10) This same God Who is from the beginning is seen in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is God the Son Who was promised to Israel as the Messiah and Saviour. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) It was He who would leave Heaven's glory to come into the realm of humanity in the form of a baby to be born of a virgin, and His name would be Jesus. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:18-21) All of this was determined by God **BEFORE** the world, as we know it, began and therefore pre-dates **ANY** religion, past, present, or future.

In leaving Heaven's glory, this same Jesus had one purpose and one purpose only, and that was to pay our sin-debt once and for all with His death and shed blood on the Cross of Calvary. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17) "For the Son of

man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10) Someone may ask, “What do you mean by sin-debt?”, and that would be a good question, so I’ll explain briefly. Through the sin of disobedience by Adam in the Garden of Eden, sin came into the realm of humanity, (“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Romans 5:12) and so all have inherited the sin nature from and out of which **ALL** sin(s) is/are committed. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) At the very moment when a woman conceives she is with child and the sin nature is passed on; that which passes from a man to a woman also carries the sin nature and cannot be avoided. All of mankind are sinners by nature and deed; they have a sin-debt that **MUST** be paid. “For the wages of sin is death;” (Romans 6:23a) God provided for payment of sin with animal sacrifices, but that was only temporary. A permanent sacrifice was needed to pay the sin-debt in full, once for all. Since man was already a sinner he was not qualified to pay the debt. There was **ONLY** one man who could meet the qualifications of a holy God, and that man was Jesus Christ. Even though Christ left Heaven’s glory to enter the realm of humanity in the form of a baby, He did not inherit the sin nature since He did not have an earthly father. Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus, conceived Him by the Holy Ghost, therefore no earthly man was involved when she conceived and no sin nature was passed on to the baby. As the sinless Lamb of God, Jesus Christ was every bit qualified to pay our sin debt, a debt that He did not owe. As a song writer wrote, “He paid a debt He did not owe; we owed a debt we could not pay.” “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:11-14)

When Jesus Christ went to the Cross of Calvary, He did so willingly. He could have stopped the whole crucifixion process at any time by just speaking a single word, or by calling His angels from Heaven, but He did not. Because of His great love for us, such as we are, He was willing to pay our debt. He suffered, He shed His blood, He died in our place and was buried, and by doing so the sin-debt of all humanity for all eternity has been paid – **IN FULL!** But it did not stop there at the grave. Three days after Jesus Christ was buried He **bodily** rose again, proof-positive that the demands of a holy God were satisfied. Friend, as you read these lines now, at this very moment Jesus Christ is in Heaven at the Father’s right hand. “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.” (Hebrews 10:12) **Your** sin-debt has been paid, in full! “... but now once in the end of the world he hath appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” (Hebrews 9:26b) In order for this sin-debt payment to be applied to your account so that you will have the forgiveness of sin, there is only one thing for you to do, and that is for you to repent of your sins and to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour. Being religious will not do it, being baptized will not do it, going to church will not do it, taking communion will not do it, doing good deeds or works will not do it, trying to live a clean life will not do it, etc., etc., etc. Only one thing and one thing only will assure you of the forgiveness of your sins – repent (a change of mind/heart that leads to a change of action) and receive Jesus Christ as Saviour. “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3) Religious meeting places all around the world are full of people who think they have the real thing in their religion, but they don’t. What they have is a “fool’s gold” or a fool’s religion. “Fool’s gold” will never send a person to a devil’s hell, but a fool’s religion will. Friend, that is not what a Holy and Loving God wants. He wants to see **YOU** repent of your sin; He wants **YOU** to put **YOUR** faith and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation but He will not force you to do that. Some religions have a “forced” conversion, but Christianity is not like that. If **YOU** chose not to repent of your sin and receive

Jesus Christ as Saviour, then **YOU** have in fact rejected Him and God will have no choice but to send you to the place the Bible calls hell. The choice is yours and you alone must decide. I sure wish I could make the decision for you, but I cannot and neither can God.

For those who trust Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, God's Word tells us: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; **and** he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (1 John 5:11-13)

Just as there is real **GOLD** and "fool's gold," so, too, there is **THE** true Gospel and a "fool's gospel." The **TRUE** Gospel brings the good news of forgiveness of sin and salvation to a lost soul; the "fool's gospel" is another (fake) Gospel that can only bring destruction and death. Friend, what do **YOU REALLY** have, **THE TRUE** Gospel or a "fool's gospel?" I most sincerely encourage you to repent of your sin and, by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, receive Him as **YOUR** personal Saviour. After receiving Christ as Saviour, you are encouraged to spend time in God's Word, the Bible - read it daily. Daily come to the Lord in prayer, and then seek out a good independent fundamental Baptist church. Attend it regularly so that you can be taught God's Word and grow spiritually.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca ©2007