

What Is the Gospel?

The word "gospel" comes from a Greek word "that means "good news" or "glad tidings." The word appears many times throughout the New Testament. Someone has said that good news is only good news if it reaches a person in time and, to that, we must agree. So then, exactly what is the "good news" or the "gospel" that we talk about?

First, look at the word "gospel" as an acrostic. **G**od's **O**nly **S**on **P**roviding **E**ternal **L**ife. Now then, let's look closer at each of the six words.

God's - The provider. Originated with God. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." {1 John 4:9} The "good news" did not originate with man, but with God. The word "manifested" means to plainly reveal and, so it is, that we see the love of God plainly revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Only - The quantity - the only provider. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} "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. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." {John 1:1-2, 14}

Son - the vehicle - the source of the provision. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." {John 14:6} "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;" {Titus 3:5-6} Though dead and buried, three days later He was bodily raised by the power of God, ascended back to Heaven, and at this very moment is at the right hand of God the Father. {Read John 20:1-17} "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" {Hebrews 10:12}

Providing - the provision - what the provision was (is) and the cost. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:19-20}

Eternal - the duration - time without end. "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." {John 10:28} "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." {1 John 5:11} The concept of "eternal life" is directly linked to Jesus Christ and, because He is the eternal God the Son, the believer is secure in Him for all eternity.

Life - the quality - life in Christ. "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." {John 10:9-10} The "pasture" speaks of food for the soul in all circumstances.

So, what we have in the Gospel message is God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, dying and shedding His innocent blood on the Cross of Calvary as the full and final payment for our sin debt. He was buried but three days later was bodily raised by the power of God and seen by many people before returning to Heaven. God said that, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." {Acts 4:12} and promised "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:17} because "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." {1 John 1:9}

Those who have not put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ are at this very moment under the condemnation of God. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ... He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." {John 3:18; 36} That is some of the *bad news*; then we read, "For the wages of sin is death;" {Romans 6:23a}. **THE** *good news* is "... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." {Romans 6:23b} and that is what the Gospel message is all about.

The Gospel is **THE** best news this world needs to hear because it is the only news that can cleanse and save a soul and make that person a spiritually new being. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." {2 Corinthians 5:17}

Friend, if you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour then please, for the sake of your eternal soul, repent and trust Him today - right now before it becomes eternally too late.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca©2016