

Jeff Lingerfelt
PO Box 12131, SC 29211
803-467-7634
Jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org

THE GOSPEL TRUTH!

The Gospel is this: It is God's means that produces Salvations! Salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19). Paul states in Romans 1:16—For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. The Gospel is God's power to quicken a Spiritually dead soul by regeneration. The Gospel Justifies, Sanctifies and ultimately Glorifies a spiritually dead human-being, making him or her fit for eternity because of the Righteousness of Jesus Christ.

"PITHY PARADIGM" The Gospel is good news, or glad tidings. It is...sent from Heaven, proclaimed on earth, heard by sinners, and gladly embraced by those who are ordained to eternal life.

The Gospel is the glorious glad tidings of the Blessed God! It informs us that God is love, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, that he has blessed his people with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and has given us the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. **James Smith, 1855**

Salvation is more than identifying yourself with a particular religion or affirming a certain value system. Being a Christian means you have embraced what the Bible says about God, mankind, and salvation.

Salvation is spoken of in terms of being Saved, Born-Again, being Born from above, New Life, Declared Righteous and Delivered—the list goes on.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN CREATOR. Contemporary thinking says man is the product of evolution. But the Bible says we were created by a personal God to love, serve, and enjoy endless fellowship with Him. The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Therefore, He also owns and rules everything.

Psalm 103:19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.

That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship.

God Is Holy. God is absolutely and perfectly holy!

Isaiah 6:3 "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts

Therefore He cannot commit or approve of evil.

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

God requires holiness of us as well.

First Peter 1:16 "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Mankind Is Sinful. According to Scripture, everyone is guilty of sin:

1 Kings 8:4 "There is no man who does not sin"

That doesn't mean we're incapable of performing acts of human kindness. But we're utterly incapable of understanding, loving, or pleasing God on our own.

Romans 3:10-12 "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

Sin Demands a Penalty. God's holiness and justice demand that all sin be punished by death:

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.

Exodus 34:7 He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.

That's why simply changing our patterns of behavior can't solve our sin problem or eliminate its consequences.

JESUS IS LORD AND SAVIOR. The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything (Colossians 1:16). Therefore He owns and rules everything (Psalm 103:19). That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship.

Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

Even though God's justice demands death for sin, His love has provided a Savior who paid the penalty and died for sinners.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust*, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

Christ's death satisfied the demands of God's justice and Christ's perfect life satisfied the demands of God's holiness, thereby enabling Him to forgive and save those who place their faith in Him

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 3:23-26 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the

present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

THE CHARACTER OF SAVING FAITH. True faith is always accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sins to Him, and making a conscious choice to turn from sin and pursue Christ and obedience to Him.

Luke 13:3,5 I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

1 John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

It isn't enough to believe certain facts about Christ. Even Satan and his demons believe in the true God but they don't love and obey Him. True saving faith always responds in obedience

James 2:19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.