

IS THERE A FALSE GOSPEL?

One of the greatest mysteries of the Bible concerns the gospel message. There seems to be as many options as to exactly what this message is, as there are people to ask about it's meaning.

However, most of these people will agree that it concerns Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

The gospel is indeed about these two things and within the meaning of these two things lies the reason why the Creator God divested himself of his immortality, came to earth in human form, lived and died the human experience and proclaimed the gospel message.

However, what should be readily apparent to any thinking individual is that Christianity as practiced today does not seem to have the solutions to the worlds problems. People desperately want what professing Christianity says it can deliver to them. People want peace, prosperity, happiness and an abundant life free of hunger, disease, poverty, war, crime, and violence.

This is what professing Christianity says it can deliver if people will only believe the gospel message that they preach.

The problem is that professing Christianity has not delivered, and does not seem to be able to deliver it's promised benefits.

Look at the world today, look at the violence, the crime, the hunger, the disease, the poverty, the war, immortality, adultery, lying, cheating, unethical behavior, within all of the professing Christian nations. Why do these problems exist, when the diligent practice of Christianity is suppose to remove all of these problems, and replace them with peace, happiness, and prosperity and all of the things that are good and beneficial to humanity.

Throughout the world today we hear many evangelist and many preachers and pastors saying Christ is the answer. Yes, Christ is the answer, Christ is the answer to the salvation of humanity. And Jesus Christ has the answers to all of mankind's problems.

But that answer is far different than what is being preached today in most professing Christian churches throughout the world.

The gospel message that Jesus brought from the Father, is a message that is so dynamic, so powerful and so dramatically opposed to what has been taught by this worlds religious leaders and philosophers, that the vast majority of people will reject it when they hear it.

People today are no different than those who lived during Jesus Christ's time, the message that Jesus Christ said he brought from his heavenly Father was rejected then, and it is rejected by most people today.

Why was Jesus Christ crucified for preaching the gospel message? Why were most of the apostles along with many of the early church martyred? And why will people be murdered just before the return of Jesus Christ for preaching a message of tremendous hope for humanity, that offers the promise of awesome physical, spiritual and eternal rewards that are almost beyond the human minds ability to comprehend.

The reason these people will be murdered is because they are preaching a gospel that has not been heard for centuries. This gospel is far different than is preached today in the pulpits of most professing Christian churches. This Gospel is very different indeed! This good news message has only been heard by a very few since the death of the apostle John and the disappearance of the early church.

There are many reasons why people think that the message that Jesus Christ brought from his Father is bad news, but the biggest reason that people hate this good news message, is that it demands change. In order to reap the benefits that are promised in the Sovereign God's good news message, is that, one is required to make many profound changes in one's attitude, behavior and lifestyle.

The gospel message demands a change from unrighteousness to righteousness as defined by God's word the holy Bible. It is this demand and the threat of eternal punishment for non-compliance that is the major cause of most peoples hatred of the gospel message and it's messengers.

Isaiah said in Is. 58:1 "Cry aloud spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet and show all my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob (that is, the nation of Israel) their sins."

Toward the end of the book of Revelation the apostle John records this, "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her my people that you be not partakers of her sins and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven and God has remembered her lawlessness."

Notice that the problem God has with these people is their sin. But what is sin? Well simply put sin is the violation of God's law.

Although sin is a topic in many churches today, since the disappearance and the demise of the early church there has been much confusion as to what sin is and what it is not. Notice how sin is defined in the Bible, *"Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law."*

Notice 1. John 5:17, *"All unrighteousness is sin."* Notice what the apostle Paul says about sin in Romans 14, verse 23, *"All that is not of faith is sin."* The apostle James says in James 4, verse 17, *"Therefore to anyone knowing to do good and not doing it, it is sin to him."*

Sin is the violation of the physical and spiritual laws of God, sin is lawlessness, sin is any deviation from God's righteous laws, precepts and principles which define how a person should live their life and worship God. It is this deviation from the law of God for which a person must ask forgiveness.

A person cannot be a true child of God by the Biblical definition of a child of God unless they are in obedience to God's Ten Commandments and other laws.

A person cannot just pick and choose which of God's laws they will or will not obey, all of the laws must be obeyed. Notice what Paul says in Rom. 2:13 *"For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified."*

You will not hear this preached in very many of the professing Christian churches of today, and the reason you will not hear it preached much is because it's not a popular message. However it is part of the gospel message.

In order to reap the benefits of the good news message and claim the eternal promises that God made to humanity through the patriarchs, the prophets, and Jesus, Jesus said, that all a person has to do is repent and believe the gospel.

The good news message that Jesus Christ brought demands true belief and obedience. It demands a change in attitude and behavior, it demands that people choose good over evil, truth over lies, and righteousness over unrighteousness. It demands a change from rebellion against God the Father's laws, precepts, and principles to obedience to his laws, precepts, and principles.

In the first chapter of Mark we read that after John was placed in prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God saying, "The time is at hand repent and believe the gospel."

Jesus came preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God and how to enter this Kingdom. How does one enter the Kingdom of God? One must believe the good news of

the Kingdom of God and then one must repent of breaking the laws of God.

However, one cannot know what to repent of unless one knows what those laws are. Today we hear preachers saying "oh just come as you are, God will accept you just as you are".

Well I am sorry my friends, God will not accept you just as you are. God demands that a person repent of sin. The scriptures clearly show that a person must stop breaking God's laws before he will accept a person into his fellowship.

There are over 613 laws in the Bible, do you know what these laws are? Well you should, because the penalty for breaking these laws is eternal death.

The apostle Paul said to the Romans, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ." Now Jesus Christ said that one must repent of sin! And sin is defined as the breaking of God's law. Therefore part of the gospel message demands that a person must repent of breaking God's law.

Repentance requires a person to change beliefs, attitudes, and behavior in respect to sin (that is the violation of God law). A person must stop violating God's law and begin to obey it's precepts and principles.

I remember when I was a young man preparing to enter a prestigious theological seminary, I asked one of the prominent men in this organization, "Why don't we teach what the Bible teaches?" The answer that I received astounded me. The answer was, "well if we taught that, no one would come to church."

This answer caused me to decide not to go to this particular seminary, but to search out truth on my own. And what I found amazed me. I found that my former belief was in error, and that God did indeed demand that I obey his laws, his precepts, and his principles. And that to enter into the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom that Jesus came preaching about, I must obey God. This is a far different message than you will hear preached today.

The good news message that Jesus brought is a far different message than you will hear preached in most of the professing Christian churches today. Jesus brought a message from his Father that explained how to enter into the Kingdom of God, and this message is far different than what is preached today in most professing Christian churches. This message demands that a person must stop breaking the laws of God, and must start obeying them.

I thank the Father and Jesus Christ that I learned early in my youth that the religion I was practicing was incorrect, and that I had fallen pray to a false gospel. A gospel that did not teach me how to become an immortal spirit being in the Kingdom of God. But instead taught me that the laws of God had been done away with, and that it was unnecessary to obey the law of God.

This religion taught me that Jesus Christ did not mean what he said when he said, "I tell you the truth until heaven and earth disappear not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will by any means disappear from the law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks the least of these commandments and teaches other to do the same, will be called less than nothing in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whosoever practices and teaches these commandments will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven."

The prophet Isaiah said that "Jesus Christ would magnify the law and make it honorable." And that is exactly what he did.

Many scriptures in the New Testament tell us that before coming to earth and becoming a human being Jesus Christ was the Creator God. He was the Creator of heaven and earth, and here is what the Creator God of Israel and of all that is and of all that will ever exist said to ancient Israel, he said:

"Oh that their hearts would be incline to fear me and keep my commandments always so that it might go well with them."

Ancient Israel rebelled against God in the wilderness, and they rebelled against God in the promise land. Ancient Israel did not believe the good news message that the Creator God brought them. They rebelled against Him, rebelled against His laws, rebelled against His ways and now they are scattered throughout the world in various nations still living in rebellion.

Today, there are two gospel messages being proclaimed to the scattered tribes of Israel and the world in general, the true gospel and a counterfeit gospel. There is a tremendous difference between these two gospels, one teaches that a person must obey the laws of God and the other teaches that one does not have to obey the laws of God. One gospel message leads to life eternal and immortal in the Kingdom of God and the other gospel message leads to the second death in the Lake of Fire.

What is the gospel message that Jesus Christ brought over 1900 years ago? Can you tell the difference between the good news message that Jesus brought, and the one that the apostles called the other gospel? Does it make any difference if you know every detail about the

gospel message that Jesus brought and that the early church taught?

Yes, it does make a difference. It does make a difference what you believe and what you know if you are serious about having eternal and immortal life in the Kingdom of God.

Notice what is said in Matthew the first chapter, verses 14 and 15. "After John was put in prison Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God saying "the time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel."

Jesus told them to repent because most of the Jews of his day had strayed far from the teachings of Moses and the prophets, and understood very little concerning the teaching of the Sovereign God whom Jesus came to proclaim.

He told them to believe the good news message that he brought because it was the only way that they could have their sins forgiven and enter the Kingdom of God.

Today, there are tens of thousands of different Christian churches and organizations professing to follow the God of the Bible. And today there are many different philosophies and teachings that claim to be the gospel message. Among these are the gospel of salvation, the gospel of grace, the gospel of the Kingdom, the gospel of Jesus, and the social gospels.

But which of these differing gospel messages is the message that Jesus Christ brought? Or do any of them reflect what Jesus taught as the good news message? Why are there so many different gospel messages proclaimed today? Why is there so much confusion today concerning the good news message, and what it means? Does it make any difference what one believes just as long as one believes?

Yes it does make a difference. It makes a differences because there can be no doubt as to what Jesus meant when he said "He that believes and is baptized will be saved. And he that does not believe will be dammed."

Jesus Christ, the one who was the Creator God before his human birth said that it was necessary to believe his message in order to have eternal life. Yet millions have never been taught the five basic messages contained in the good news that Jesus Christ brought. And hundreds of millions who profess to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ do not believe or understand the message he brought. Or how it relates to their personal salvation, or the salvation of humanity today and in the future.

The five good news messages that Jesus Christ brought from God the Father concern, the good news of the Father's grace and peace that he offers to humanity, the good news about Jesus Christ and who He is and why He came, the good news about Christ and the salvation of humanity, the good news of the process of salvation, and the good news of the Kingdom of God, what it is and how to enter into it as a spirit-being.

The reality of death is one of the most terrifying realities of this human experience. No matter what we do or how hard we try to preserve our lives, we will die. Is there life after death? Job thought there was, here's what Job says, *"If a man dies shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my change come."* Job knew he would be resurrected, *"You shall call and I will answer you, you will have a desire to the work of your hands."*

God the Father grants salvation from eternal death and entry into his spiritual kingdom to those who believe the good news message concerning Jesus Christ. There is no doubt that the Bible says that salvation comes through Jesus Christ, however salvation does not come from Jesus Christ. It comes from God the Father through a process that involves Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for the sins for all humanity.

More than 1900 years ago Jesus Christ came teaching things that literally changed the course of human history. A major part of His teaching concerned the coming Kingdom of God to rule the earth. Part of the model prayer that Jesus gave to His disciples says the following, *"Your Kingdom come, your will be done in earth as it is in heaven."*

For centuries most professing Christians have been repeating these words and praying for the Kingdom of God to come without having the slightest understanding of the awesome implications of what they are asking. It is truly remarkable that Jesus spoke so much about the Kingdom of God, yet those who professed to teach His message over the centuries have said so little about this world altering doctrine. An earthly Kingdom under heavenly control, Divine intervention in the affairs of men, what a strange and unfamiliar ring these words have. But they are a part of the gospel message.

Most of what people hear about the gospel is focused solely on Jesus Christ, and as a result millions do not believe what Christ taught. They only believe certain things about Him because they do not understand the message that He brought about salvation and the Kingdom of God.

Because mankind in general has been greatly deceived, they simply do not believe what Jesus Christ said or taught concerning the process of salvation or the Kingdom of God. Most people have not been taught true gospel message. But have been taught a false gospel. Yes, there is a false gospel and this false gospel is being taught in the pulpits of churches throughout the world, over television, over radio and through the printed media.

Jesus warned his disciples saying "beware that no man deceives you, for many shall come in my name saying I am the Christ and they shall deceive the majority of the people".

Before the end of the first century the apostles warned believers to be aware of deceptions because they could see false teaching about the way of God beginning to emerge.

Jude one of the brothers of Jesus Christ wrote that evil men were turning the grace of God into a license to sin and that God the Father's earthly children needed to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered. Because these same men were denying the only Lord and Jesus Christ.

About 40 years before Jude wrote this warning to the church and barely 20 years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Galatia giving them a strong warning to beware of false teachings. Even then as the early church grew in numbers so did those who opposed the truth of God during Paul's time.

During Paul's time the true gospel and teachings of Jesus Christ were being perverted by people who were determined to distort the truth of God for their own purpose. Paul issued a severe condemnation and a warning of punishment for those who attempt to change or corrupt the true gospel.

Paul said this to the Galatians in chapter 1, verses 8 to 9, "But though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you than that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. So then I say to you, if any man preach any other gospel to you than that you have received let him be accursed."

Is there another gospel? Absolutely there is another gospel and it is being preached to millions today. This is no shallow meaningless threat by the apostle Paul. This curse is backed up by the authority of Jesus Christ whom the apostle Paul served as a minister of the true gospel.

What is recorded here is a historical fact. During the lifetime of the apostles the true gospel was being corrupted by another gospel that was being taught to confuse and seduce the elect of God. And today the world at large is believing this false gospel.

The curse that the apostle Paul pronounced on those who would pervert the true gospel message is still valid today. Therefore, anyone who teaches what they believe to be the good news message that Jesus and the apostles taught, had better make sure that they clearly understand what that gospel message is, in order to avoid being punished for teaching a false and a counterfeit gospel.

Does it really matter what one believes? Well it really doesn't matter, if there's no God. It really doesn't matter at all. If God the Father and his Son do not exist and the Bible is not the word of God, it does not matter what one believes or how one conducts one's life.

However there is abundant proof that God the Father and Jesus Christ do exist and that the Bible is their instruction manual to the elect of God and to the human race.

The true message that Jesus brought from his Father is very different from what has been taught throughout the centuries. No matter how cleverly crafted and eloquently stated the other gospel is, the other gospel teaches a message that is diametrically opposed to the Father's good news message.

This deceptive message will always lead a person away from the truth of God and will result in eternal death for those who believe it, because it is a counterfeit gospel.

What was it that caused the original gospel to become corrupted into a false gospel? How could such a thing happen? What made people believe and follow the heretical teachings that those who profess to follow Jesus, but did not? What caused people to follow a false message?

In the book of Revelation we are told that it is Satan the devil that is deceiving this entire whole world. This powerful evil spirit known as the devil and other evil spirits are actively deceiving the entire world, political, philosophical, and religiously.

In his letter to the Galatians the apostle Paul said, "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ, and are turning to a different gospel message that is in reality no good news message at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the good news of Christ."

The Bible tells us how this other gospel started, and how it differs from the true gospel message. Secular as well as religious history also records these perversions of the true gospel message since it was originally proclaimed. And it is openly admitted by many Bible Scholars and religious leaders that what is taught today as Christianity is far different from what was taught during the days of the apostles.

Satan through his followers have taught a counterfeit gospel message ever since the days of the early church. These false teachings that began centuries ago, have been accepted as original truth. Many historical sources show us how the iron fist of this satanic counterfeit gospel was forced upon the world.

It is openly admitted by most Bible Scholars that what was enforced as truth after the first century A.D., was contrary to the scriptures and commandments of God. In his second letter to the Corinthians Paul warned the Corinthians that they were putting up with people that were preaching a false gospel message, and he said to them,

"For such are false apostle, deceitful workers transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." and he said "And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers are also transformed as ministers of righteousness whose end shall be according to their works."

Yes, another Jesus and another gospel was being preached by these false apostles and deceitful workers. This same false Jesus and false gospel message is being preached and taught today.

There are many things that people consider truth, however, a careful reading of the Bible will show that Biblical truth is far different than what most people have been taught and believe today.

There are many sincere and dedicated people today who have been misled by a counterfeit gospel. But only truth is truth, sincerity and dedication to not equal truth. Sincerity and dedication only shows the attitude with which people do what they do.

Jesus said, "God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." There is a vast difference between the results in believing the true gospel and in believing a counterfeit gospel.

Because the Bible teaches that "There is a way which seems right to man but the ends there of are the ways of death." You can read this for yourself in Proverbs 14 verse 12.

One only has to review a few of the many thousands of different ideas and teachings that people have about the gospel to understand that there is something very wrong with what people have believed and taught, and what people believe and understand about the gospel message.

Today, we find many groups and organizations teaching what they believe to be the gospel, however what many of these groups teach does not even faintly resemble what the early church taught.

What we find today is great confusion as to who Jesus Christ was, what constitutes the gospel message that Jesus brought, and what the Bible actually says is truth.

Many sincere people feel that they have heard the gospel message. However what most people have heard is a false good news message that is no good news at all, but that is designed to keep them from learning the truth about what the Sovereign God and his Son are working out here on earth.

The good news message that Jesus commanded his followers to teach and proclaim reveals how a person can become an immortal spirit being in the family and Kingdom of God. What many people have heard is a gospel message about Jesus Christ, not the message that he brought about a future beyond this physical life that is so awesome and so exciting that it is almost beyond our ability to comprehend it.

Most professing Christians today believe that it really doesn't matter what particular Christian philosophy a person adheres to, as long as one believes in Jesus. However this belief is in opposition to the clear instructions in the Bible.

The Bible reveals that there are two distinct paths that a person can follow during ones life here on earth. Jesus said:

"Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the path that leads to destruction, and many will enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the path that leads to life, and only a few will find it."
Mat.7:13-14

He also said: "Many will say to me in that day (that is the day of judgment) Lord, Lord didn't we prophesy in your name, and in your name have cast out devils, and in your name done many wonderful works? And then I will say to them, I never knew you depart from me you workers of lawlessness."

According to Jesus, there is a way that leads to salvation and there is a way that leads to death. And according to Jesus and the apostles there is a gospel that is true and there is a gospel that is a false gospel.

There is a tremendous difference between the good news message that Jesus brought and the one that is popularly believed today.

However, you do not have to be deceived as to what the true gospel message is and is not. Because today just before the return of Jesus Christ the true gospel that was taught by Jesus Christ, the apostle, and the early church is again being taught.

I see that my time is up, if you want to know more about the subjects that I have briefly touched on in this broadcast, write to me at the address given in the following announcement. Until next time this is Bud Cocherell for Bible Research .org

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