

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL MESSAGE ?

The gospel message is found in the most widely published book in the world, the Bible. But what is this book? Is the Bible purely mythology about the origin of the universe and human beings that has been fabricated by writers of the ancient nation of Israel to explain their history? Or does the Bible hold the secret to the mystery of human existence and its future?

What is the message that Jesus Christ brought over 1900 years ago and why should you pay any attention to it? Does this ancient message have any relevance to you and your loved ones today?

Believe it or not the answer to why you exist on this planet and what the future holds for you and the rest of humanity is found in the gospel message and elsewhere in the pages of the Bible.

Although the Bible is the most published and most read book in the world and has been translated into almost every language and distributed to billions of people, few people understand this book or its primary message, which contains instructions concerning how you can live forever as an eternal immortal spirit-being in the Family and kingdom of God.

Today, professing Christians claim conservatorship of the biblical text and claim that the Creator God has guided and inspired their understanding of what is written in the Bible. The problem is that each of these Christian denominations have widely differing views, opinions, and interpretations of what they believe the Bible says and what the gospel message is that Jesus Christ brought centuries ago.

One only has to review a few of the thousands of different ideas and teaching that people have about the gospel message to understand that something is very wrong with what most people believe, teach, and understand about what Jesus taught.

Although there is great confusion within the Christian Community as to exactly what the Bible says the gospel message is, You do not have to be confused about what the gospel message is and its

importance to you and the rest of mankind. And you do not have to be a Bible Scholar to understand the good news that Christ brought, that is, if you are willing to study the Bible for yourself with an open mind and heart, putting aside all preconceived ideas and prejudices that you have concerning what is written in the Bible.

IT IS THE FATHER'S MESSAGE

The first thing to understand about the gospel message, is that, it is not Jesus' message. That's right!

The good news message that Jesus Christ proclaimed is not his message, he was the messenger, just as John the Baptist was the messenger who foretold and prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus Christ did not send himself, as some teach; Jesus was sent by the Sovereign God to deliver his message to humanity:

In a conversation with his disciples Jesus said, "The word which you hear is not mine, but it is the Father's who sent me" (Jn.14:24 Para.). See also Jn.1:1-15; Rom.1:1-3; 2.Cor.4:4-6.

Just before his trial and execution John records the following from a prayer of Jesus to his heavenly Father:

Jesus said in his prayer to his Father:

"I have told these men all about you. They were in the world, but then you gave them to me. Actually, they were always yours, and you gave them to me; and they have obeyed you. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, for I have passed on to them the commands you gave me; and they accepted them and know of a certainty that I came down to earth from you, and they believe you sent me. John 17:6-8 TLB

Jesus prayed to his heavenly Father who was a real spirit-being. Jesus did not pray to a part of himself as a triune god as some believe. Nor did Jesus send himself to earth. He was sent by the Sovereign God to proclaim his good news message. If people would only believe the clear record of the Bible, there would not be any confusion as to the identity

of the Father and the Messiah and the gospel message would not be a mystery.

Without understanding who's message it is, it is impossible to understand why it was sent to humanity and what the one who sent it, expects to accomplish through it.

THE BEGINNING

The second thing to understand is that humans are temporal and do not have an immortal soul and that there is no escape from eternal death unless a way of escape is provided from a source beyond this physical existence.

At the very beginning of human history, God warned the first man that if he disobeyed his instructions he would die: Genesis chapters two and three reveals the tragic situation that mankind finds itself in because of a mistake made by the first two humans:

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it, for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die" (Gen.2:15-17 KJV).

Here, the Creator God warns of the consequences of eating of this forbidden fruit.

Continuing in chapter 3 verse 2:

"And the serpent [Satan] was cunning above every animal of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Is it true that God has said, You shall not eat from any tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the trees of the garden, but the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it nor touch it, lest you die" (Gen.3:2-3 Para.).

Satan who is the master of deception questioned Eve to see if she understood what God had said regarding the trees of the garden and he discovered

that she did understand that disobedience would cause her death. "And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not really die" (Gen.3:4 Para.).

The first humans believed this lie; they believed that they were immortal and could not die. However, they were not immortal; they did die. Throughout human history the vast majority of their descendants have believed this same lie, and many will face the final death because they preferred to believe a lie instead of the truth.

The Bible shows beyond a shadow of a doubt that, when wicked individuals are punished with death, they cease to exist from all dimensions of God's creation. Death is the absence of life; it is not existence in another form.

The good news message Jesus brought has the solution to the temporary condition of human life and gives clear instructions as to how to remove the obstacle of human nature that prevents people from having immortal life and true peace, happiness, and prosperity.

Isaiah's Prophecy

In the book of Isaiah chapter 61 verses 1 and 2, the prophet recites this prophecy about the good news messenger and the message that he would bring:

Isaiah said:

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the humble. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted, to announce liberty to the captives, and to open the eyes of the blind. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of God's favor to them has come, and the day of his wrath to their enemies". Isa.61:1-2 Para.

At the very beginning of Jesus' ministry in Judea he went to the synagogue in Nazareth, and he quoted this same prophecy as an announcement that he is the one sent from Sovereign God to deliver his good news the message:

1. When Jesus quoted Isaiah 61, verses 1-2, he did not quote the last part of the prophecy that says, *"And the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn."* By leaving out this prophecy, Jesus clearly revealed that his mission was one of delivering a message from God and that he did not come to punish humanity for their rebellion against God and the violation of his laws, nor did he come to establish God's rule upon earth at that time—both of which he will do in due time.

2. He came to preach to the poor. We know that God is no respecter of persons; therefore, the preaching of good news to the poor was symbolic of revealing the true word of God to those who were spiritually poor—those devoid of the spiritual riches that can only come from hearing, understanding, and obedience to the wonderful truth of God.

3. Jesus was sent to deliver the good news that humanity was going to have the opportunity to be set free from the prison that held them in bondage and slavery to sin, and to be set free from the result of sin, which is eternal death.

4. He was sent to open the eyes of those who were spiritually blind by revealing the truth of God concerning him and his Father and their plan for the salvation of humanity. And he was sent to reveal how to be removed from the oppression and subjection of this world's evil religious and governmental systems.

These are only a few of the things that the gospel message is about. The good news from the Sovereign Father is about much, much more and is truly awesome news of hope for a bright and wonderful future beyond this physical existence.

The apostle John explains that Jesus who was the Creator God incarnate came to earth to reveal how to escape eternal death and to become a son of God. The apostle John says:

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John (speaking of John the Baptist). The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

That was the true Light, which lightest every man that comes into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Jn.1:6-13

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life ." Jn.8:12 See also Isa.42:1-7; Mal.4:2; Acts 26:13-18.

Jesus knew who he was, and why he had been sent to earth. The problem was that prior to the completion of his ministry, almost no one truly knew or understood who he was or why he had come to earth.

The Jews and those who lived around Palestine including, the Levitical priesthood, and the religious leaders of Jesus time, whose sacred trust it was to preserve God's word in its purity and meaning, had instead, perverted God's law and worship system. Therefore, they were in spiritual darkness and did not recognize who Jesus truly was, nor did they understand the message that Jesus said that he brought from his Heavenly Father, nor did they understand the prophetic meaning of the events that transpired concerning Jesus.

Jesus said to the Pharisees and scribes who were supposed to understand the sacred text and practice and teach its concepts:

"Hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophecy about you, saying, This people draws near to me with their mouth, and with their lips honor me; but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrine the ordinances of men".Matt.15:7-9 KJV Para . See Isa.29:13; Ezk.33:31-32.

Jesus began his ministry among a people who were in great spiritual darkness. Although the Jews of Jesus' day were extremely religious and zealous in what they believed, they were not correctly

worshipping the true God. They were in fact in spiritual darkness and had departed far from the teachings of Moses and the Prophets.

THE MESSAGE

Although there was plenty of proof that Jesus was the Messiah, there were very few who believed the message that he brought, because they were looking for a Messiah who would deliver them from their physical bondage, and restore national Israel as a world power. They were not looking for spiritual enlightenment, or for the Messiah to come and sacrifice himself for the sins of humanity.

"After John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God, saying, the time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe the good news".

The Kingdom of God was indeed at hand because Jesus was sent from the Sovereign God as his ambassador to deliver his good news message of salvation.

Jesus told the Jews of his day to repent and then believe the good news that he was bringing to them. He told them to change their attitudes and behaviors and to come into compliance with God's laws and way of life, because most of the Jews of his day had strayed far from the teachings of Moses and the Prophets and understood little concerning the teachings of the Sovereign God he came to reveal.

Therefore, they needed to change their rebellious attitudes and lifestyles and then believe what was being told to them. Because if they did not make these changes, the message Jesus brought would be meaningless to them. Simply because in order to receive the benefits that are offered in the message he brought, one must be in compliance with God's laws and way of life.

The major reason that people do not understand the gospel message today is that they refuse to come into compliance with God's laws and way of life.

After his resurrection Jesus told his disciples to go to all the world and preach the good news that he taught them and the ones who believed and are baptized would be saved; but the ones who that did not believe would be damned (Mk.16:15-16).

Jesus Christ, the one who was the Creator God before his human birth, said that it is necessary to believe his Father's message in order to have eternal life, yet millions of professing Christians do not even know what this good news message is.

Because there are so many different gospels being taught today, does it make any difference which one a person believes? Yes, it does make a difference what a person believes in relation to the Gospel. Why does it make a difference?

It makes a difference because there can be no doubt as to what Jesus meant when he said, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; and he that does not believe shall be damned" (Mk.16:16 Para.)

In addition to repentance and baptism, one must believe all the things that Jesus was sent by his Father to teach concerning the five basic messages that offered forgiveness of sin and peace between himself and the one forgiven.

Yet millions have never heard or been taught the five basic aspects of the good news message that Jesus was sent to bring. Most only hear a message about the person of Jesus Christ and never hear the rest of the message that tells them how to enter the Sovereign Father's kingdom as an immortal spirit-being.

The problem with only hearing a part of the good news message, is that, without hearing the entire message one will not know what one must do in order to repent and come into compliance with God's law and way of life, nor what one must believe in order to escape eternal death and become immortal.

One must believe that Jesus is the Son of the Sovereign God of all that exists, and that he, who was the Creator God, was sent by his Father to become the Redeemer and Savior of humanity.

One must believe in, and practice the way of salvation in order to have eternal life and enter into the Family and Kingdom of God.

Yes, one must believe the true gospel message that Jesus Christ brought and that his apostles, and the early church proclaimed in order to reap the benefits offered by God the Father. Yet, many 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.

God and the Bible

The vast majority of people who profess to believe in the God of the Bible have not taken the time nor spent the effort to actually prove that God does exist and that the Bible is his word. Most have just taken the word of someone in whom they have confidence or they just have a feeling that these things are true. But, is it logical to take the word of someone else or trust your feelings on such an important matter? The answer is obviously, No it is not logical, it is foolish.

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. If one is truly seeking to obey God the Father and Jesus Christ, then one will desire with all their being to associate with people who are truly following the ways of God, and one will be making a diligent effort to conduct every aspect of their life in a way that will please the Father.

The true message that Jesus Christ brought from his Father is very different from what has been taught by popular Christianity throughout the centuries.

There are many things that people consider to be truth; however, what God reveals as the way of truth is many times not what people believe as truth. It is

God's way of truth that most people hate and ridicule.

The Bible defines for us what is meant by "the way of truth."

The apostle John says that Jesus asked his heavenly Father to set those who follow him apart for a sacred purpose through his truth: Jesus said that the Father's word is truth" (Jn.17:17 Para.).

The book of Psalms tells us that God's law is truth, and all his commandments are truth and that his word is true from the beginning.

Why is it so important to understand the true gospel?

It is important because "Jesus said, God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (Jn.4:24 Para.).

The way of truth is revealed through the Bible and taught by true servants of God. This truth, if believed and acted upon in a positive manner, will result in one living the way of truth.

Solomon, who was the wisest man to ever live tells us that "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Would God the Father who is the God of love and truth, and whose holy spirit is called "the Spirit of Truth" ever accept a counterfeit and a lie as a means of worshiping him? NO, Never!

Likewise belief in a counterfeit gospel message will neither result in one knowing how to escape the death penalty for one's violation of God's law, which is called sin in the Bible or knowing the process explained in the true gospel which one must comply with in order to enter the Kingdom of God as a son of God.

There are literally hundreds of thousands who preach against the truth of God by not teaching what the Bible reveals as truth. Jesus said that you will know those who are and are not children of God by their fruits. What are the fruits of the popular gospel

message being taught today? Is the result of these various gospel messages a world of 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 belief in these various gospels have 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 belief in these various gospels is suppose to remove all of these problems, and replace them with peace, happiness, prosperity and all of the things that are good and beneficial to humanity.

One only has to review the a few of the thousands of different ideas and teaching that people have about the gospel messages to understand that something is very wrong with what most people believe teach and understand about what Jesus taught.

Today we find many groups and organizations teaching gospel messages that do not faintly resemble what Jesus, the apostles, and the early Church taught. We find great confusion among them as to who Jesus Christ was, what constitutes the gospel message that Jesus taught, and what the Bible actually says is truth.

Because most people believe what they want to believe or what they are told, rather than searching for and believing the truth of God as they should, the vast majority of those who profess to be of the Christian faith have accepted and believed many perversions of the true gospel message that the Sovereign God sent to earth by the Messiah.

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 awesome and exciting almost beyond our comprehension.

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:

"Many will say to me in that day (that's 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."

Jesus also 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" Matt.7:13-14

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 apostles, and the early church is again being taught.

Although there are many things that can be learned from Jesus parable about the small gate and the narrow path, there one major point to take note of:

Jesus tells that the only way to enter into eternal life is through him. All other religions or philosophies that offer a different way to escape eternal death and enter the Kingdom of God are false and will lead to eternal death instead of eternal life. Why is this so?

It is because according to the New Testament, Jesus Christ is the one who created all things for the Sovereign God. Prior to being human, he was an immortal spirit-being who inherently possessed the highest form of existence: life that springs forth from itself, never dying or decaying. The Creator God emptied himself of his glory, his power, and his immortality to become a mortal man subject to death. He then allowed his creation to murder him. He voluntarily gave up his life and for a short time, he completely ceased to exist as a living entity in order to provide a way for people to escape the second death in the Lake of Fire.

The apostle Paul told the Phillippines that Jesus

"Who, being in the form of God [the Sovereign God], thought it not robbery to be equal with God [the Sovereign God]: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross". Phil.2:6-8 KJV

Jesus died; he ceased to exist. All that remained of his life was the physical and spiritual record of his existence which could have been completely destroyed and erased if the Father had not resurrected him from the dead.

In the first chapter of the Book of Revelation, the apostle John records his encounter with Jesus Christ who calls himself the God Alpha and Omega:

Rev.1:17-18 Para.

Jesus said: "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying to me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death".

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE GOSPEL

The good message that Jesus commanded his followers to teach and proclaim is in actuality only one message for humanity; however, the message does have two distinct divisions:

It is the good news about the coming Family and Kingdom of God to rule the earth; and it is the good news about how a person can become a part of the Family and Kingdom of God through the sacrificial blood and authority of Jesus Christ.

Jesus did not deviate from the message that John the Baptist announced that he would proclaim. From the beginning to the end of his ministry Jesus explained and expounded in great detail the things that concern repentance, pardon of sin, baptism, and the Kingdom of God which are all a part of the true gospel message that had not been taught in its entirety for centuries, but is now again being revealed.

In the millennia of eternity past, a plan unfolded that is more fascinating and engrossing than any science fiction story or real life saga that has ever been told. The plan involves every person who has lived, is now living, or is yet to be born. With the creation of humans, God the Father embarked upon the greatest and grandest of all his creations; he is creating beings just like himself; and his intent is to share with them all he has created or will ever create throughout eternity. And the Creator God in the person of Jesus Christ was sent to earth to reveal this awesome plan.

Herein is a great truth of The Sovereign God's good news message. The Father and Jesus Christ have always loved their human creation who are all sinners, and it is because of and through their great love for their creation that we have hope for salvation:

The apostle John said of this love:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;

but that the world through him might be saved" (Jn.3:16-17 KJV). See Mk.16:16; Rom.5:6-10; 8:7-18; Jms.4:4; 1.Jn.4:9-10.

There is only one Sovereign God who is above all else that exists and he is the one who allowed the Creator God to come to earth and sacrifice himself for humanity. When the decision was made concerning the method through which humanity would be able to have their violation of the law of God forgiven and receive redemption and salvation, there were only two immortal beings in existence—the Sovereign God and the Creator God.

The decision to allow the Creator God to divest himself of his immortality and become human not only placed the Creator's future existence in great jeopardy, it also had a tremendous impact upon the Sovereign God's future. If the Creator had failed in his mission, he would have died and ceased to exist forever, and the Sovereign God would have lost his closest friend and companion. The Father would have been the only immortal being in existence. He would have had no one like himself with whom to share eternity. The Sovereign God's decision to allow the Creator to attempt to save humanity was a selfless act and shows a love of awesome proportions for humanity.

Human words or emotion cannot begin to adequately express the grace, mercy, compassion, and love that God the Father and Jesus Christ have for humanity. And words cannot adequately describe the price that the Father and his Son were willing to pay for our redemption and salvation.

Although there are many counterfeit gospel messages being taught today, 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 what the Bible actually says about the Kingdom of God about the True Gospel and clearly understand its importance to you and your loved ones. Write for your copy of The Gospel which

contains the five good news message from God the Father to humanity at the address given in the following announcement. Until next time this is

Bud Cocherell for Bible Research .org.

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