

## The Good News of the Gospel

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by Bill Crews

***“The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart; and good tidings make the bones fat (healthy, strong)” (Prov. 15:30). “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from afar country” (Prov. 25:25).*** Nearly everybody likes to hear good news, and hardly anyone wants to hear bad news. The word “gospel” means “good news,” and the gospel of Christ is the good news from God about what He has done about our sins against Him and what He wants to do to solve that problem. The good news from God is that He continues to love us, even in our sins, and that He has sent His Son to die as a sacrifice for our sins, and that He offers to forgive our sins and to give us eternal life in a perfect heaven with Him, and that there are some reasonable conditions which any of us can meet to receive these blessings.

The good news of the gospel is that no matter what a mess we have made out of our lives, we can change, and we can receive God’s forgiveness and hope if we want to. In Acts, chapter two, the murderers of God’s Son were forgiven (verses 22-41). In Acts, chapter eight, a deceiving sorcerer was forgiven, and then offered forgiveness of additional sin (verses 12-24). In Acts, chapter nine, a blaspheming persecutor of the Lord’s disciples was forgiven (verses 1-18). Pagans who worshipped idols at Thessalonica were forgiven (1 Thessalonians 1:9). Perhaps typical of a cross section of the various ones converted in the cities where Paul preached are these words to those who constituted the church of God at Corinth: ***“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God”*** (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). The gospel offers us hope, our only hope.

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