

What Is The Gospel Of Christ?

by Bill Crews

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women”; Col. 1: 13 — “*who delivered us out of the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love*”; Heb. 12:28 — “*wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken*”). In Mark 16: 16, Jesus commanded the apostles to preach “*the gospel*” in all the world to every creature. More than thirty years later Paul wrote that it had been done (Col. 1:23 — “*and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye heard, which was preached in all creation under heaven*”).

In its fullest sense, then, the word “gospel” is applied to the preaching done by the apostles as they went forth under that commission (“*and they went forth, and preached everywhere*” — Mk. 16:20) as detailed in the book of Acts and enlarged upon in the epistles. It is called “*the gospel,*” “*the gospel of Christ,*” “*the gospel of God,*” “*the testimony of our Lord,*” “*the testimony of God,*” “*the truth,*” “*the word,*” “*the word of the truth,*” “*the word of God,*” “*preaching Jesus,*” “*preaching Christ,*” “*the word of the cross,*” “*the doctrine (or teaching) of Christ,*” “*the faith,*” “*a law of faith,*” and other things.

According to Paul the gospel *includes (but is not limited to) the death of Christ for our sins* according to the Scriptures, His burial, His resurrection from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, and His appearances after His resurrection to confirm it (1 Cor. 15:1-8). Paul was certainly not saying that this is all there is to the gospel or this is the entirety of the gospel. He was rather reviewing that part of the gospel which would show the fallacy of the false doctrine that some of them had embraced, namely, that there would be no resurrection of the dead. If there will be no resurrection of the dead, then neither was Christ raised from the dead, but in accepting the gospel they had already accepted this truth — and His resurrection is God’s assurance that all the dead will be raised. Please read all of 1 Corinthians 15.

The gospel of Christ also includes the requirement of **repentance** on man’s part and the promise of remission of sins from God (Lk. 24:46-47). The gospel of Christ includes faith and baptism, conditions to be met on man’s part, and the promise of salvation from God (Mk. 16:15-16). A reading of Acts 2:22-41 (the first time that the gospel or good news of salvation in the name of Christ was preached) shows that the gospel contains some facts that man must **believe** (that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ since he died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day and then was exalted as Lord and Christ at the right hand of God), some *promises* that man may receive (remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit), and some *conditions* that man must meet (believe the facts, repent and be baptized in the name of Christ). This is confirmed by all of the various instances of people being saved from their sins upon hearing the gospel of Christ as recorded in the book of Acts.

The gospel not only tells men how to *get into* Christ, but also how to *live in* Christ, not only how to *become* Christians, but also how *live as* Christians. At Antioch Paul, before other brethren, administered a rebuke to Peter because he and others with him “*walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel*” (Gal. 2: 14). The gospel, then, covers our conduct as Christians. To the brethren at Philippi Paul wrote: “*Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ: that, whether I come and see you or be absent, I may hear of your state, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one soul striving for the faith of the gospel*” (Phil. 1 :27). The early disciples who “*continued steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers*” (Acts 2:42) were but walking by the gospel. The gospel tells of God’s grace (Acts 20:24), and as “*the word of his grace*” it is “*able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified*” (Acts 20:32). The gospel tells the Christian of his hope, the hope of eternal life in heaven, and how to so live as to ultimately receive that reward (Col. 1 :5, 23).

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