

Lesson 5

What Is The Gospel?

Thesis: This lesson is designed to teach the believer what the Gospel is so that they may share it effectively.

Memory Verses:

† **Mark 16:15** — **15;** *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

⇒ In the previous lesson we learned the importance of teaching people that they are lost and in need of salvation. We learned the tool to show people their lost condition is the law of God. Paul calls the law our “schoolmaster” that will “bring us unto Christ” (Gal. 3:24). Today we will look at what the Bible says as to “how” a person is saved.

1. To share the Gospel you must know the Gospel message

- Today there is much confusion about what the Gospel is. Most Christians are not effective in sharing their faith because they are confused as to what the Gospel is. If we don’t know “what” the Gospel is, how can we share it?
 - A. When Paul wrote to the believers at Rome, what did he say he was ready to do according to Romans 1:15? Preach the gospel
 - † **Romans 1:15** — **15;** *So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.*
 - ↳ **How prepared do you feel in sharing the Gospel with an unbeliever?**
 - ↳ **What does a person need to know to be saved?** They are sinners; Jesus died for them, was buried, and rose again
 - B. Why is it important to be ready to share the Gospel?
 - i. You cannot share what you do not know and understand. To be able to share your faith effectively, you must understand the Gospel.
 - † **I Peter 3:15** – *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”*
 - † **2 Timothy 2:15** - *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*
 - C. Was the early Church ready to share the Gospel according to Acts 5:42; 8:4-5, 12, 25, 35, 40? Yes!
 - i. Do you believe their readiness to share the Gospel caused the Gospel to spread?
 - ii. Why do you think they were so ready to share it? What provoked them to be ready?
 - D. What is the Gospel?
 - i. How would you define what the Gospel is?
 - ii. What is the Gospel according to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4? the gospel is the good news of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection

iii. It is necessary for Jesus to have died for our sins, but if He did not rise again what would that mean according to **I Corinthians 15:12-17**?

1. *We would still be in our sins.*
2. *Our faith would be in vain.*

2. How does someone partake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

⇒ Some say it is through baptism or keeping certain sacraments of the church. Once you “know” about the Gospel, how does it get applied to your life; how do you get saved, what is necessary? In order for someone to partake in the salvation that God has made available through Jesus Christ, there are three inseparable truths that must be evident in the sinner’s life.

D. The first step in order for someone to be saved is for them to believe _____ in Jesus Christ, they must place their faith in Him alone for salvation.

1. In Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus in John 3, what does Jesus say over and over is necessary to be saved in verses 15-18, 36? They must believe

2. Read Acts 16:26-31

a) In Acts 16, Paul and Silas are in prison for preaching the Gospel. In the middle of the night God causes an earthquake that supernaturally opens all the prison doors. The guard thought the prisoners all escaped and was going to commit suicide (because he didn’t want to face the death penalty that would come from Rome for allowing them to escape). Paul sees this man just about to take his life and stops him. What question does the guard ask Paul and Silas and what is their response in verse 30-31? _____

b) To “believe” in Jesus Christ is to place your “faith” in Christ. Faith is the funnel through which God’s grace flows to your life. *“For by grace are ye saved **through faith**,”* (Eph. 2:8a). To be saved means you believe in and place your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. You believe He died in your place for your sins and that He rose again from the dead (Romans 10:9). That the way you have your sins forgiven and are made right before God is through Jesus Christ and nothing else.

c) To believe in Jesus Christ means you don’t believe in yourself, your works, your actions, or anything else to save you (Eph. 2:8-9).

3. Is there a kind of “faith” or “belief” in God that doesn’t save?

a) **Many today say, “I believe in God, isn’t that enough?”**

† **James 2:19** – *“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”*

↳ A belief in God that *will not* save is simply a belief that “acknowledges” the truth without receiving its life changing message.

b) **Can you believe in God and reject Jesus and still be saved?** _____

† **1 John 2:23 — 23**; *Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.”*

† **John 5:23 — 23**; *That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

† **John 8:19 — 19**; *Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. (10:31, 14:9-10, 15:23, 24)*

c) Believing in God and not accepting Jesus does not save. You must place your faith in God's Son Jesus Christ.

† **John 14:6 — 6**; *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

† **Acts 4:12 — 12**; *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

4. There is such a belief in God and Jesus Christ that doesn't save. It is a faith and belief that is not joined to repentance and confession of Christ as Lord. True saving faith and belief in Christ as Messiah **will always** cause a person to repent and confess Christ as Lord.

E. The second truth is for the sinner to repent of their sins.

† **2 Corinthians 7:10a** - *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation..."*

1. What do you think of when you hear the word "repentance"?

2. What did repentance look like in your life?

3. **What is Repentance?**

a) Repentance (Greek, metaneo) - means "to change one's mind or purpose," always, in the New Testament it involves a change for the better, an amendment, and always from sin.

b) **Definition** – "To change one's mind about sin in such a way as to result in a change of action."

c) Repentance is literally an agreement with God concerning your sin. You look upon the sin in your life and agree with God that it is evil and wrong and that you have offended God. You then turn away from your sins to God. This doesn't mean a sinner becomes perfect in his deeds, but true biblical repentance begins the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life, Who then begins to perfect the believer. He changes us; He changes our desires, our thoughts, and our will (**Philippians 1:6**).

4. Repentance is evidenced by humility and shame over your sin that results in a change in action and desire to do good works toward God.

a) What was John the Baptist's message in Matthew 3:2? "repent _____ *ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

b) When Jesus began His earthly ministry in Matthew 4, what was His message according to verse 17? "*From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent _____: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

c) What did Jesus say people had to do to avoid "perishing" (a reference to hell) according to **Luke 13:3,5**? Repent _____

d) What does God command all men everywhere to do according to **Acts 17:30**? Repent _____

e) What was Paul's message according to **Acts 26:20**? What did he want his listeners to do? Repent and do works of repentance _____

f) What does God's goodness lead the believer to according to **Romans 2:4**? Repentance _____

⇒ When a person believes in Jesus Christ, they will repent of their sins, and this will in turn cause the sinner to:

F. Confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

1. Confession of Jesus as Lord and Savior is simply the display of the inward faith that has taken place in the believer's heart. Outward confession is the result of the inward transforming work of the Gospel. An outward confession is the verbal acknowledgment of the heart accepting the Gospel. Once a person's faith is ignited by the Gospel truth, and their heart is convicted of their sins, confession of Jesus Christ is the natural external display of that inward work of the Spirit.
2. The word "Lord" (Greek "Kurios"; Hebrew equivalent "Jehovah") means the supreme one, God, Master. To confess Jesus as Lord is to confess He is God and Savior.
 - a) All who are saved must recognize Jesus is Lord.
 - † **Romans 10:9–10, 13 — 9;** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10; For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 13; For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
 - † **John 13:13 — 13;** *Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.*
 - b) How did Thomas respond to the resurrected Jesus Christ in John 20:28?
 - † **John 20:28 — 28;** *And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*
(1) Jesus Christ is the Lord before whom all will bow (Acts 10:36, Philippians 2:10-11, Revelation 19:16). To be saved is to acknowledge Jesus is Lord. To confess Jesus is the Savior
 - † **Matthew 10:32 —** *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."*
3. Some people say that their faith is "private"; but what did Jesus teach in Matthew 10:32-33?
 - † **Matthew 10:32–33 — 32;** *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33; But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*
4. When did you recognize Jesus as Lord? How did that impact your life?