

WHAT IS the GOSPEL?

What is the gospel? Can you explain it? If you tried to, what would you say? Would you talk about how to “earn” salvation? Would you explain that God does all of that for you? Would you

talk about Jesus dying on the cross and say therefore we’re all saved? Or, would you talk about “sin” or “judgment” or “repentance” or a “covenant”? Let’s take a look at Jesus’ gospel & what God said through the Bible & how each person can get saved (many verses).

God explains in His Word (the Bible) what is essential to salvation. **1) Why do we need to be saved?** Because

Adam and Eve (first ancestors) chose to deliberately rebel against God setting in humans the want to rebel against God, and it’s consequences (**Rom5:12**). But, the first time you and I deliberately did something we knew was wrong, we chose to rebel against God too (**Rom5:8**).

2) Is Jesus God? Yes. Jesus is the Messiah who was to come (**Isaiah 6:7 & 9:12 & 53; John 1:29; Acts 2:31-35**). Jesus is the *only* way to Heaven (**John 1:1-4; John 14:6; 1Cor 3:11**). Jesus is holy & our only hope for salvation (**1Peter 1:13-19**). Jesus is High Priest of all who trust Him (**Hebrews 7 thru 13**).

3) What is sin? Sin is often mis-represented as “*missing the mark*”, but Scripture makes it clear that accidents don’t stir God’s wrath, but our willful rebellious choices to do sin get us in trouble with righteousness & God. Sin is rebellion against what is right & holy and breaking God’s law (**1John 3:4**). Sins are literally crimes against God & humans. Each of us is guilty (**Romans 3:10-23**). Each sin must be punished on each soul forever in the Lake of Fire (**Rev 20:10-15**), or on Jesus’ cross once. (**1Peter 3:18**)

4) Can good deeds help? Can an apology erase the damage of sin? No. Can an apology stop consequences of sin? No. No amount of “good” acts can undo even one act of willful rebellion against God & righteousness. No one can bribe the Creator and Judge of the whole Universe. God cannot ignore evil, because He is 100% good and holy. Sin must be punished. (**Romans 3:23 & 6:23**)

5) Is there hope? YES! Because Jesus came, there is hope. God explains clearly that while we were His enemies, Christ died for us. God created humans for fellowship. God wanted to have family... but Adam and Eve messed up the first plan. God knew they would so He promised Jesus would come, on the very day of Adam and Eve’s choice to rebel. 2000 years ago, Jesus came, lived a sin-less life, did miracles only God could do, cast out demons, taught deep truths about God, and then was crucified, was buried and rose again the 3rd day. THAT is why we have hope. (**Romans 5:8; 2 Peter 3:9**)

6) How do we get salvation? We cannot earn it (**Gal 2:16; Eph 2:8-10**), but when we do have it, we cannot lose it (**John 10:27-30**). The problem is that many think they can give a cheap repentance & be saved. Jesus said that many people will call Jesus “Lord” on Judgment Day but He will send many away because of their unrepentant hearts & love for sins (**Matthew 7:13-13, 21-23**). Make sure Jesus won’t say that to you or those you love. (**Acts 2:37**)

7) What is “repentance”? Repentance is hating sin so much that you destroy the sin-tools and you walk away never looking back (**Luke 3:8-9; Acts 19:19-20; 2Cor 7:20**).

8) What does repentance look like? Genuine repentance is shown: new heart that hates sin (**Ezek 36:26; 2Cor 5:17**).

9) What does genuine repentance lead to? A covenant relationship with Jesus, “the covenant of the cross”.

10) What is a covenant? A covenant involves sacrifice & a life-long agreement. A salvation covenant requires you to turn from known sin. Ask Jesus to use trials+training to teach you how to walk holy & to turn others from sin to God & Bible. (**Matt26:28; Mark14:4; Luke 22:20; 1Cor. 11:25; 2Cor 6:14-7:1**)

11) Many claim to know Jesus, but don’t act it. Why? Because many of them are not yet saved. There is a huge difference between “almost saved” & genuinely saved. (**Ro 6 + 8; Galatians 5; James 4:1-4; 1John 2:15-17**)

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