

What Is The Gospel?

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16

The word “Gospel” means “Good News,” and the good news of the Bible is that God accepts you as you are and loves you unconditionally and wants you to accept Him and love Him. John 3:16 has been called “The Golden Verse” and “the gospel in a nut shell.” It states that God has a tremendous love for the people of this world, so much that He willingly sent His only Son to this world to die for the people of this world. By doing so, His Son, Jesus, paid the price to pardon our sin. When we say, do or think anything which is against God’s will, this is called sin. Sin is what separates us from God. Jesus’ sacrificial death has allowed all those who believe in Him to live with Him forever in His heavenly kingdom. But for all those who do not accept Jesus’ sacrifice for them, they will have to pay the price of their sin on their own by spending eternity in hell separated from God’s presence forever.

The 4 gospels in the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are the good news about the most significant events in all of history – Jesus’ virgin birth, His sinless life, His multitude of miracles, His sacrificial death on the cross for our sin, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, and His promise to return for His believers. **The gospel** is everything which Jesus taught through His words and His deeds. **The gospel** is the whole of the Christian message; it is all that God has done, is doing and will do through Jesus Christ.

The book of Romans is a carefully reasoned and detailed presentation of the **Christian gospel**. Verses in the book of Romans tell us that “we all have sinned and are separated from God (Romans 3:23), but even though we are sinners, God still loves us (demonstrated by Christ dying for us)(5:8). Our sin deserves the penalty of death and eternity in hell, but God offers us the gift of eternal life (6:23). Eternal life refers not only to eternal quantity, but divine quality of life and refers to our resurrection and heavenly existence in perfect glory and holiness. Eternal life is a free gift God gives undeserving sinners who believe in and accept His Son. So to receive this free gift and be saved, we are to confess (our sins and what we believe about the gospel) with our mouth and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead (10:9). This includes repenting (turning away) from sin, trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation, and submitting to Jesus as Lord and to the will of Jesus.

The Nicene Creed is an affirmation of faith used by some denominations. It is also a summary of **God’s gospel**. It reads in part as: “We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, ... who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.”

Throughout Jesus’ ministry, He demonstrated His power and authority (as God the Son) by performing multiple acts of healing. But He also preached about the kingdom of God (**the gospel**), and commanded His disciples to do the same – heal and preach the gospel (Luke 9:1-11). He also told His disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). The kingdom of God exists now, spiritually, and later will exist physically. The kingdom of God consists of all believers who accept the authority of God and commit to Him and His will. The New Testament Gospels and Epistles give insights as to what it means for believers to live as a citizen of God’s kingdom (see Matthew chapters 5-7).

So we as disciples, believers and citizens of God’s kingdom, are called to not only help others, but also to preach the good news and convince others to accept this good news and become disciples of Jesus Christ. We are supposed to teach, through our words and our deeds, what Jesus taught – the gospel.