

The Content of the Gospel

Is this the Gospel?

"Accept Jesus into your heart and you will live forever in heaven"
(John 1:12/ Rev.3:20)

I. The importance of getting the Gospel right

- A. The Gospel is "good news"
- B. People are saved "by the Gospel" (1 Cor.15:1-2)
- C. How many "gospels"?
 - 1. The gospel of the circumcision and the gospel of the uncircumcision (Gal.2:7)
 - 2. The gospel of the kingdom and the gospel of grace (Acts 20:24-25)
 - 3. The "everlasting Gospel" (Rev.14:6)
- D. No tolerance of "alternate gospels" (2 Cor.11:3-4/Gal.1:6-9)

II. The nature of the Gospel as revealed in its names

- A. The Gospel of God (8x) i.e., it originates from God
- B. The Gospel of Christ (12x) i.e., it is concerning Christ (Rom.1:1, 3)
- C. The Gospel of the Kingdom (4x) i.e., it announces the Kingdom
 - The Gospel of peace (2x) an aspect of the kingdom (Rom 14:17)
 - The Gospel of salvation (1x) an aspect of the kingdom (Col.1:13)
 - The Gospel of the grace of God (1x) an aspect of the kingdom
 - The Gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Cor.4:4/ Tit.1:11) i.e., a call to obtain the glory of God (2 Thess.2:14) associated with the kingdom (1 Thess.2:12)
- D. "Christ's Gospel" (1x) i.e., that which Christ preached (the Gospel of the kingdom— Mark 1:14)
- E. "My [Paul's] Gospel" (3x) i.e., that which Paul preached (also about the kingdom— Acts 14:22/ 19:8/ 20:25/ 28:23)

III. The Gospel Concerning Christ (Mark 1:1/ 1 Cor.15:1-4)

- A. As preached by Peter & Paul: Christ has come, has died, has risen, according to the scriptures (Acts 2:22-28/ 3:13-15/ 4:10-12/ 5:30-32/ 10:37-43/ 13:23-39/ 26:22-23)
- B. Christ died for our sins, by which he
 - 1. has redeemed his people by his blood (Eph.1:7/1 Pet.1:18-19/Rev.5:10)
 - 2. has delivered his people from the bondage of sin (Rom.6:6)
- C. Christ has risen from the dead, by which means he:
 - 1. has secured our justification (Rom.4:25)
 - 2. has given to his people everlasting life (Rom.6:4/1 John 5:11-12)
- D. Christ has ascended to the right hand of God. From there, he:
 - 1. reigns as sovereign over all things (Eph.1:20-22/1 Pet.3:22/Acts 2:36)
 - 2. intercedes for his people (Rom.8:34)
 - 3. will return to vindicate his name and his people (Col.3:4/2 Thes.1:6-8)

The Gospel of Kingdom of God

I. The history of the kingdom

- A. The offer of the kingdom (Ex.19:5-6)
- B. The rejection of the kingdom (1 Sam.8:1-7)
- C. The second offer of the kingdom
 - 1. Prophesied (2 Sam. 7:12-13/Dan. 2:44/7:13-14/Isa.9:6-7/Mic.5:2)
 - 2. Announced (Matt.3:2/Mark 1:14-15)
- D. The second rejection of the kingdom (Luke 19:12-14/Matt.23:13)
- E. The transfer of the kingdom (Matt.21:43)

II. The nature of the kingdom

- A. Spiritual (Rom.14:17/John 3:3/Matt.13)
- B. Present now (Matt.12:28/Luke 17:20-21)
- C. The kingdom is the church (community) of Christ (Rev.5:10/Col.1:13)
- D. David, the type

III. The summons to the kingdom Matt.22:2ff

The Gospel of Salvation

Eph.1:13/Rom.1:16/Acts 13:26

I. Salvation

- A. Accomplished and appropriated (Luke 19:9/2 Tim.1:9/Tit.3:5)
- B. Present and continuous (1 Cor.15:2/2 Cor.6:2/Heb.7:10)
- C. Future and hoped-for (Rom.8:24/13:11/1 Thes.5:8/1 Pet.1:5)

II. Salvation from Sin (Matt.1:21)

- A. From sin's condemnation and penalty: justification & life (Luke 1:77/Rom.5:9)
- B. From sin's bondage and power: redemption and victory (Phil.2:12)
- C. From sin's presence and annoyance: glorification and rest (Rom.8:22-23/Eph.1:14)

III. Means of salvation

- A. The blood & intercession of Jesus (Eph.1:7/Rom.8:34)
- B. The Spirit and grace of God (2 Thes.2:13/Eph.2:8-9)
- C. The return of Christ (Heb.9:28/2 Thess.1:6-7)

IV. Things that accompany salvation (Heb.6:9)

- A. A changed heart (Titus 3:5/Ezek.36:25-27/Jer.31:33-34)
 - 1. The "witness" of the Spirit (Rom.8:16/1 John 5:10)
 - 2. Humility (1 Tim.1:15/Luke 18:13-14)
- B. A changed life: good works (James 2:14/Gal.5:6/Tit.2:14)
 - 1. Love (John 13:35/1 John 4:7-8/3:16-18)
 - 2. Obedience (John 14:15/John 8:31/1 John2:3-4)
 - 3. Holiness (1 Cor.6:9-11)

What Must I do to be Saved?

I. Relationship with God

- A. Salvation belongs to and is IN the Lord (Jer.3:23/Rev.7:10/1 Jn. 5:11-12/Eph.1:7)
- B. To know him is eternal life (John 17:3/Jer.31:34/9:23-24/Phil.3:8-10)
- C. Defining a saving relationship
 - 1. King/Subjects (Ps.74:12/Isa.44:6/Zech.9:9/Matt.25:34/Acts 17:7)
 - 2. Lord/Servant [Slave] (Ps.86:2, 16/119:124-125/Matt.24:45-46/Lk.17:7-10)
 - 3. Father/Child (Ps.27:10/68:5/103:13/Prov.3:12/John 1:12/Heb.12:9)
 - 4. Husband/Wife (Jer.31:32/Hos.2:20/Eph.5:22-24,31-32)
 - 5. Friend [?] (John 15:13-15)... "Lover"[?] (Song of Solomon)

II. Alienation from God

- A. God's authority spurned
 - 1. *God asserts his authority (Deut.13:4/Jer.7:23/Matt.7:21-23/Luke 6:46/Acts 5:29)*
 - 2. *Man rejects God's authority (Matt.22:2-6/Neh.9:17/Jer.2:31/22:21/Rom.1:21, 28)*
 - 3. *Man violates God's commands (1 Jn.3:4/Rom.3:23)*
- B. Man without God
 - 1. *enemies of God (Rom.5:10/8:7/Col.1:21/Phil.3:18/James 4:4)*
 - 2. *condemned to death (John 3:18/Rom.6:23/Ezek.18:20)*
 - 3. *hopeless and powerless to change (Eph.2:12/Rom.5:6)*
- C. The wrath of God
 - 1. *Against those who reject the truth (Rom.1:18/2 Thes.2:10-12/John 3:19)*
 - 2. *Manifested in judicial blindness (Rom. 1:28/11:8)*
 - 3. *The coming day of wrath (Rom.2:5-9/Luke 19:27)*

III. The way of reconciliation

- A. God has initiated and offered reconciliation (Rom.5:6-8/2 Cor.5:18-19/Rom.10:6-9)
- B. The necessity of repentance (Amos 3:3/Mark 1:15/Luke 13:3,5/24:47/Acts 2:28/17:30/20:21/26:20/Isa.55:6-7/1 Thess.1:9)
- C. The nature and role of faith (Heb.11:11/1 Jn.5:10/Rom.10:9-11/5:2/Eph.2:8-9)
- D. The significance of baptism (Matt.28:20:19/Acts 2:38 [1 Cor.1:12-13/10:2])

The Eternal Security of the Believer: Conditional or Unconditional?

I. The believing individual is eternally secure in Christ

- A. Salvation is eternal (Heb.5:9/John4:14/6:35/8:51/10:28/11:26/3:16, 36)
- B. Salvation is "in Christ" (Eph.1:6/2 Tim.2:10/Acts 4:12/Phil.3:8-10/1 John 5:11-12)
- C. We are required to "abide" in Him, or be lost (John 15:5-6/ Rom.11:16-22/1 Jn.2:24)
- D. Only those who endure in the faith to the end will ultimately be saved (Matt.24:13/ Col.1:21-23/Heb.3:6, 14//1 Pet.1:5/Rev.3:5)
- E. Neglect of salvation once received will lead to grievous consequences (Heb.2:3; 10:26-29/1 Cor.9:26-27/ 2 Tim.2:11-13)

II. General arguments for the "Once-saved-always-saved position:

- A. Since we are not saved by good works, we are not kept saved by good works (Gal.3:3), nor can we be lost by bad works.
- B. Once "born again" (John 3:3, 5/ 1 Pet.1:23) it is impossible to be "unborn."
- C. Once saved, we have been "sealed" with the Holy Spirit (Eph.1:13), who is the guarantee of our ultimate salvation (Eph.1:14/ 2 Cor.5:5).
- D. We are "kept by the power of God" (1 Pet.1:5) which means that our salvation is not up to us to keep. No power that would seek to deprive us of our salvation is as great as God's power to keep us. Thus "No man can pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:29). See also 2 Tim.1:12)
- E. The Lord has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you (Heb.13:5). Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. God is for us. Who can be against us? (Romans 8:31-39)
- F. We have been given the gift of eternal life (Rom.6:23). God is not an "Indian giver" and whatever is eternal cannot end. can not end.
- G. Jesus said that His sheep will never perish (John 3:16; 10:28), be condemned (John 5:24), spiritually thirst or hunger (John 4:14; 6:35), or die (John 11:26).

III. Arguments for the antinomian view of Charles Ryrie, Charles Stanley, Zane Hodges, R. B. Thieme, Hal Lindsey, *et al.*

- A. God has forgiven all of our sins: past, present and future (Heb.10:10, 14).

- B. Even if we turn out faithless, having once been saved, we remain saved, since "He abideth faithful" (2 Tim.2:13)
- C. We can lose heavenly rewards because of carnality, but we will still be saved, "yet as by fire" (1 Cor.3:11-15).
- D. We can break-off our *fellowship* with God, but never our *relationship* as His children (Heb.12:5-8).

IV. Arguments for the Calvinistic view of perseverance

- A. Those whom God has elected for salvation will come to Christ and none will persevere to the end in faith and holiness (Heb.6:9/Phil.1:6/2 Tim.2:19/Jude 1, 24)
- B. It is not the Father's will that Jesus should lose any of those given to Him (John 6:39). Jesus prayed that His disciples would be kept safe from the wicked one, so that none would be lost (John 17:15).
- C. Perseverance is not a condition for salvation, but is the evidence of true salvation (Col.1:22-23/Heb. 3:6, 14/2 Pet.1:10/1 Thess.1:3-4).
- D. Those who fell away were never saved
 1. Hebrews 6:4-6 describes a person who has come close to salvation, but has not been fully converted.
 2. In the parable of the sower, only the fourth type of ground represents an actual case of saving faith (Luke 8:11-15).
 3. Jesus "never knew" the lost (Matt.7:23)
 4. Those who "went out from us" were never "of us" (1 John 2:19)
 5. Backsliders are like washed pigs who return to the mud (2 Pet.2:22). They were never anything other than pigs, though they were outwardly cleaned-up.

V. Rebuttal: There are those who "fall away," "draw back," and "depart from the living God," resulting in loss of a saving relationship with God.

Matt.6:14-15/18:21-35 *Those (including forgiven ones) who do not forgive*
 Luke 8:12-13 *Some believe for only a while and fall away*
 Luke 12:45-46 *God's servant can backslide and share the portion of unbelievers*
 John 6:66 *Some disciples have ceased to follow Jesus*
 Heb.3:12/6:4-8/10:36-39 *Warnings and actual cases*
 1 Tim.1:19/4:1/5:15/2 Tim.2:17-18/4:10/6:8-10 *Actual cases, past and future*
 Gal.5:4 *Former Christians estranged from Christ and fallen from grace*

The Gospel of Grace

I. The Gracious God (Ex.33:19/34:6/Ps.86:15/103:8/Jonah 4:2/1 Pet.2:3)

A. Toward sinful man

1. Grace extended (2 Kings 13:23/Neh.9:31/Matt.5:45/Luke 6:35)
2. Grace abused (Isa 26:10/Jude 4)

B. Toward the righteous (Gen.6:8/Ex.33:17/Ps. 84:11/Pr.3:34)

C. Saved by grace (Eph.2:8-9/Rom 3:24/5:20)

II. Fullness of grace (John 1:14-18)

A. The Spirit of Grace (Heb.10:29)

B. In Christ (Ps.45:2/Luke 2:40/4:22/2 Cor.8:9)

C. In us (Pr.11:16/Ecc.10:12/2 Cor.8:7/Col.4:6)

D. Is grace irresistible? (Acts 13:43/Heb.10:29/12:15)

III. The sufficiency of grace (2 Cor.3:5/8:9)

A. The School of grace (Rom.5:21/Tit.2:11-12)

B. Gifts of grace (Rom.12:6/1 Pet.4:10/1 Cor.3:10/15:10/Eph.3:7/Heb.12:28)

C. Grace to help (2 Cor.12:9/2 Thes 2:16-17/Heb.4:16)

IV. Grace obtained and ministered

A. Obtaining grace

1. Precondition for receiving: Humility (James 4:6/1 Pet.5:5)
2. Means of access: Faith (Rom.5:2/Eph.2:8)

B. Growing in grace (2 Pet.1:2/3:18/2 Cor.8:7)

C. Ministering grace (Eph.4:29)