



Romans 1:8-17

Romans 10:5-17; Galatians 1:1-10

What Is At Stake Today?

- Life & Good or Death & Evil (Deuteronomy 30:15)
- Blessing or Curse (Deuteronomy 30:19)
- Heaven or Hell (Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 13:1-5; Hebrews 11:13-16)
- ★ **TODAY** (Hebrews 3:7-8)

Here WE Go into 2022

- First, are YOU part of the WE? OUR goals . . .
 - ① To grow into a **DEEPER RELATIONSHIP** with God.
 - 2 Pet 3:17-18; **Exo 33:18; Psalm 37:4; 42:1-2; 43:4; 63:1; 36:7-9**
 - ② To **GLORIFY** Him in EVERYTHING we do.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31; 6:20
 - ③ **PIETY** . . . Pursue holiness in every aspect of our lives.
 - Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:13-16
 - ④ **BE Church** as God designed HIS Church to be.
 - Romans to Revelation
 - ⑤ Understanding the **GOSPEL of GOD**. (See handout.)

Growing as Disciples Together

- **ALL** Christians are Disciples. Churches are commissioned by God to make **AND** grow as **DISCIPLES**. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- **BUT** all who say they are Christians are not disciples and therefore prove themselves of being deceived. (Matthew 7:21; James 1:22)
- A disciple, by definition, is a student with specific goals.
- The Five D's of Discipleship . . .
 - D** _____ (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Hebrews 8:10)
 - D** _____ (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
 - D** _____ (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Heb 6:11-12)
 - D** _____ (Romans 12:11; Hebrews 6:11-12)
 - D** _____ (James 1:22; Matt 12:50; 1 John 2:17)
- Disciples have **PLANS** to grow and be like their Master.
 - Disciples understand that they are obligated to walk (live) just as Christ walked (lived). (1 John 2:6)

- Disciples are wholly committed with all their energy to follow their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (Luke 9:23, 14:26, 33; Matthew 22:37)
- Disciples have the desire to say to others, as Paul said to the saints at Corinth . . . "Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- **What is YOUR plan?**

This Week's Homework Assignment

- **Catechism Question #2:** What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify Him? Answer: The Word of God is the **ONLY** rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy Him.
 - Ephesians 2:20; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 1:3
- **Memory/Meditation:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

What Gospel? (Galatians 1:1-10)

- Why is this such an important question of this generation?
 - There is **ONLY ONE** Gospel. That is the Gospel preached/taught to us by the Apostle Paul. (Galatians 1:6-9)
 - We are warned that **MANY** are putting hope and confidence in false gospels. (Matthew 7:21-23)
 - There are **MANY** who **SINCERELY** believe they are Christians when they are **NOT**!
 - There are **MANY** who **SINCERELY** believe that they are going to heaven when they die - despite how they live their daily lives.
- We live in times **VERY MUCH** like Jeremiah's days - just before He sent thousands who called themselves His people into a seventy year captivity.
 - God sent His prophets (those appointed to bring the Word of God to His people) but the people refused to listen and obey. (Jeremiah 7:23-28; 25:4ff; 35:15; 44:4-5; 2 Chronicles 36:15-16)
 - **TODAY**, God's pastors (those appointed to bring the Word of God to His people) preach the Word of God but the majority today refuse to listen and obey. God has not changed! (Hebrews 13:17, 7; 1 Thess 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17; Ephesians 4:11-13)

The Gospel in the New Testament

- (Mark 1:1) "the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"
- (Mark 1:14, 15) "the gospel of the kingdom of God"
- (Acts 20:24) "the gospel of the grace of God"
- (Romans 1:1; 15:16) "**the gospel of God**"
- (Romans 1:16; 15:19) "the gospel of Christ"
- (2 Corinthians 4:4) "the gospel of the glory of Christ"
- (1 Timothy 1:11) "the **glorious gospel** of the blessed God"

The Gospel Is Good News

- The Gospel is GOOD NEWS from God to a world laden with sin, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters, who have forsaken the LORD, who have provoked Him to anger and have turned away backward. (Isaiah 1:4)
- The Gospel is good news for those who are BURDENED with the BAD NEWS - their sins God's justice, and God's wrath. Consider Matthew 11:29.
- The Gospel is good news for those who understand that they are enemies of God, traitors to His kingdom, servants of Satan, lovers of the things of the world, and filled with self-righteousness. (Eph 2:1-3; Rom 8:7-8; Col 1:21)
- The Gospel is good news to those who are willing to lay down their weapons of rebellion and SURRENDER to God. (Luke 9:23; Romans 10:9-10)

The Gospel Is Bad News

- The Gospel is BAD NEWS for those who refuse to believe, repent, and obey its demands and will suffer the WRATH of God for all eternity.
- The Gospel is bad news for those who do not take God seriously at His Word.
- The Gospel is bad news for those who live their daily lives as they please **with little thought of God and His commandments.**

The Gospel of PEACE (Romans 10:15)

- (Romans 10:15; Ephesians 6:15) "the gospel of peace"
- It is called the "gospel of peace" because all humans are at war with God and God is at war with them. (Psalm 5:5; 7:11; 11:5; Prov 3:32-33; 6:6-19)

The Gospel Is Commanded!

- ★ Since this is the **gospel of God** it is a message that must be believed and obeyed! (2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17)
- ★ (Mark 1:14-15) Christ **commanded** those who He preached, "Repent and believe . . ." He used the PRESENT TENSE and IMPERATIVE MOOD.
- ★ (1 John 3:23) We are **commanded** to believe on the name of Christ.
- ★ Why a command and not an invitation?
 - **BECAUSE** of the seriousness of our situation!
 - Firemen never invite people to come out of a burning building.
 - Police never invite people to evacuate the area immediately surrounding a dangerous chemical spill.
 - GOD, in His love, commands us to obey the Gospel because the consequences of disobedience is to suffer His wrath for all eternity.

What Is the Gospel? (Romans 1:16)

- The Gospel of God is "the **power** unto salvation to everyone who believes . . .". (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)

- (Eph 1:15-23) Paul prays for the saints at Ephesus that they may comprehend "the **exceeding greatness** of His **power** toward us who believe . . ."
- But then we have to ask the question, "What is salvation?" or "What are we saved from?" and then, "What are we saved to?"
 - From what we were born as to what we were created to be - one who has a genuine, real, sincere and holy relationship with God. (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10)
 - From an enemy of God to one of His children. (Rom 5:10; 1 John 3:1)
 - From being disobedient to one who now longs to obey. (Rom 1:5; 6:18; 15:18; 16:26; Acts 26:20; 2 Cor 10:4-5; Hebrews 5:9; 1 John 3:1-10)
 - From being focused on self to one who now proclaims His praises and denies self. (1 Peter 2:9; Luke 9:23)
 - From serving self to serving God. (1 Thessalonians 1:9)
 - From Christ-haters to God lovers. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1 Cor 16:22)
- But where does saving faith come from? We are not born with a faith that can save. Faith comes from outside of ourselves. (Galatians 3:23, 25) Faith is a gift of God that is given to us when we are born-again. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

What Is the Gospel - A Short Incomplete NT Version

- God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. (Genesis 1:1)
- God created man after His own image for relationship. (Genesis 1:26)
- Man willfully chose to disobey God's command and as a result all men died to God. Man became God's enemy. (Romans 5:10)
- All men are born sinners, enemies of God, self-centered, self-righteous, and haters for God. (Romans 3:9-19, 23; 5:12)
- God has promised to pour out His anger, vengeance and wrath on all who do not take Him serious at His Word. (Nahum 1:2-6; Hebrews 10:30-31)
- God, in His mercy, sent His Son into the world to propitiate His anger toward His enemies - sinners. (1 John 4:10; Romans 3:24-25)
- This propitiation came as a results of the Son of God living a perfect life and dying for all that the Father gave Him. (Isaiah 53)
 - God crucified His only begotten Son to propitiate His anger toward His people because of their sins. (1 John 4:10; Isaiah 53:5-6, 10)
- God saves by bestowing His sovereign grace (transforming power) upon helpless sinners, causing them to come to Him through His Son and giving them eternal life. (Romans 6:23b; 5:6; John 6:44, 65; 14:6)
- God gives new life (eternal life) which includes a new heart that desires God. (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Hebrews 8:10; Psalm 42:1-2; 63:1-3; 73:25-26)
- All those whom God bestows His grace confess with their mouths, "Jesus Christ is Lord." (Romans 10:9-10)
- As new creatures, these "born-again" persons now live for God and practice His righteousness, repenting of their sins, doing His will and not their own. (1 John 3:1-10; Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 4:2; Matthew 7:21; 12:50; 1 John 2:17)