



# The Gospel of Christ

By Eddie Fisher

**T**he word Gospel means good news. It is the good news of the salvation made possible by the death of Jesus Christ for our sins, his burial and resurrection according to the scriptures. But why is this message one of good news? Let us examine the reasons why this is so.

You and I my friend, have not lived up to the true purpose for our lives.

As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one.... For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. **Rom 3:10 –12; 23**

God in his holiness is repulsed by sin. He cannot stand sin.

Who shall not fear thee, Oh Lord and glorify they name? For thou only art holy: For all nations shall come and worship before thee, for thy judgements are made manifest **Rev. 15:4**

God in his holiness cannot countenance nor fellowship with sin and it is for this reason that Isaiah tell us

Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither is His ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. **Isa. 59:1-2**

Because God is just, sin must not go unpunished.

The Bible tells us

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness. **Rom. 1:18**

If God fails to punish a single sin he would cease to be a just God. He is perfectly just and must punish every sin. Sin must either be paid for or be forgiven. All of the sacrifices under the Old Testament could not remove sin nor secure for man the pardon that he needs. All of the sacrifices under the Old Testament could not remove sin nor

secure for man the pardon that he needs. All that the law did was to expose the sinfulness of sin but could not remove it.

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offer year by year continually make the comers there unto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sin. **Heb.10:11-2**

In Jesus Christ, God punished sin and forgave man by having Him die on the cross for our sins. Jesus died for our sins, yours and mine. His death was a substitute for ours. Like Barabbas, Jesus died in our place. Because of what he did at Calvary, you and I need not pay the penalty for our sins but can experience the gracious and loving kindness of God's mercy..

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins should live unto righteous: by whose stripes ye are healed. **1 Peter 2:24.**

This is good news. In the death of Christ, God's justice is satisfied and his love extended to you, the guilty sinner. When we were yet sinners Christ in love, died for us (Rom. 5:8-10). This is why the gospel is good news. It proclaims that man in and through Jesus Christ can be finally and completely forgiven.

The gospel contains facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed and promises to be received.

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you which also you have received and wherein you stand: By which also you are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures. **1 Cor. 15: 1-4.**

These are the facts of the gospel which I must believe. The scriptures record the historical facts of Christ's death, burial and resurrection which you and I must accept and believe. We must receive it and accept it as it is recorded in the scriptures. This gospel must be preached before you and I can come to faith.

Men and brethren , you know, how, that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. Acts 15:9

The gospel must be preached (1 Peter 1:25) and you and I must believe it if we are to be saved. The gospel contains facts that must be believed.

The gospel also contains commands that must be obeyed. We do not obey facts, we believe them. Similarly, we do not believe commands, we obey them and in outlining the gospel, Jesus outlines its conditions which must be met.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth, and is baptised shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned. –

**Mark 16:15-16**

In preaching the first gospel message and in response to the question, *what must I do to be saved*, Peter outlined the commands or conditions of the gospel. Men were told to repent and be baptised for the removal of their sins (Acts 2:37-38). They were told to believe and confess their faith in Christ (Acts 8:36-37).

From these scriptures it is evident that faith, repentance, confession of faith and baptism (immersion) in water for the remission sins are the commands and conditions of the gospel. The New Testament reveals that you must believe (Acts 15:9); repent of all your past sins (Acts 17:30-31); confess with your mouth what you believe in your heart (Rom 10:9-10) and be buried in water for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21). These are the commands of the gospel.

When you would have believed the facts of the gospel and obeyed all its commands then and only then will you receive the promises.

For you have need of patience, that after you have done the will of God you might receive the promise. **Heb. 10:36**

But what are the promises of the gospel? These include, among other things, the removal of sins (Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21), redemption and forgiveness (Col 1:13); the privilege of having your prayers heard and answered by god (John 9:31; 1 Peter 3:12); fellowship with Christ (1 John 1:7); the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32 Rom 8:9); and the privilege of being called God's child, having the right to call Him Father (Gal 4:6).

The gospel is good news. It declares that you can be righteous, that you can have your sins forgiven and that you can be reconciled to God. God will take vengeance on you if you do not obey it. Please, obey the gospel before it is too late.

And to you who are troubled rest with us. When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power... **1 Thess 1:7-9**