

THE BIBLICAL GOSPEL ©

"There is one God¹ and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"² who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me."³ Anyone who seeks Him, as did the three Magi, is a wise man.

1 - The Biblical Gospel

Everyone - regardless of gender, race, nation, or other circumstance – finds himself in the same predicament with respect to God, for which there is only one solution:

1A - The Bad News – Everyone is a sinner,⁴ and, because God is holy⁵ and hates sin,⁶ everyone begins his life alienated from God.⁷ Sin is embedded in him, in his very nature, and thus he is a sinner from the moment of his conception⁸ and thus born separated from God. Sin is systemic – that is, it affects everything that he thinks, says, or does. Moreover, sin blinds him to his own sinfulness and deceives him into believing that he can be good – or at least good enough⁹ - and therefore deserving of God's favor. Finally, the sinner is helpless. Sin holds him in bondage. He cannot stop sinning on his own.¹⁰

1B - The Good News - Everyone whom God calls¹¹ can avail himself of the solutions to these problems which God himself has provided:

1B1 - Salvation - The death of the Son of God, the Messiah or Christ,¹² Jesus of Nazareth, on the cross at Golgotha¹³ atones for the past, present, and future sins of everyone who repents of his sins and accepts Jesus as his Savior and Lord. Once a person so repents and professes Jesus as his Savior and Lord, God imputes Jesus' righteousness to him, and he becomes a child of God and an heir to God's promises to those who love God. His separation from God has ended, and he can be assured that he has become a member of the company of the redeemed,¹⁴ which is called the Body of Christ.

1B2 - Sanctification - The infilling of God-the-Holy Spirit increasingly enables the believer to resist the temptations of the Devil and equips the believer for ministry in the Body of Christ.

1B3 - Comment - Both salvation and sanctification are free gifts from God, but they must be sought and accepted by the recipient with the clear understanding that he does not merit them, he cannot earn them or buy them, and his acceptance of them constitutes an admission that he is utterly dependent upon his Savior and Lord for his every need.

2 - False Religions vs. the True Religion

The above explains the difference between false religion and true religion.

2A - False religions - All false religions are focused on Mankind and what a person can do to render himself acceptable to their god or gods. At their core are man-initiated requirements that a person must meet and rites that a person must perform. All false religions say: Do this and don't do that, and you will be acceptable to our god(s).

2B - True religion - True religion is focused on God and what God has done to render his creatures acceptable to himself. At its core is a God-initiated relationship between him and a person. The one and only Creator God says essentially: “Neither you nor any other man¹⁵ can make you acceptable to me. Only I can make you acceptable to me.¹⁶ But rejoice! I have done all that is necessary to render you spotless in my sight. I entered my creation once in the person of my Son, Jesus of Nazareth, who suffered and died on the cross to atone for your sinfulness. If you accept¹⁷ Him – and Him alone - as your Savior and Lord, I will accept you.”¹⁸

2C - Comment - The sole criterion by which God will determine a person’s fate - either an eternity in God’s company (Heaven) or an eternity separated from God (Hell) - is whether or not during this life he opened his heart to and accepted Jesus as his Savior and Lord. The Scriptures state: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”¹⁹ Note two important things. First, God is not interested in your – or any other - religion; he wants a relationship with you. Second, God’s invitation to you to have a relationship with him is both inclusive and exclusive. It is inclusive because it is addressed to all persons – all men, women, and children on earth, regardless of their age, race, ethnicity, religion, etc. It is exclusive because it is issued by one person – the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.”²⁰

3 - An Exhortation

If you have not already opened your heart to and accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, I urge you to do so now, for Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock. If any man hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.”²¹ What a promise from the Lord of Creation!

¹ The Biblical God (or Godhead) is a Trinity consisting of three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

² KJV 1 Timothy 2:5.

³ KJV John 14:6.

⁴ Genesis 6:5, I Kings 8:46, Psalm 53:3, Proverbs 20:9, Isaiah 53:6 & 64:6, and Romans 3:10-12 & 3:23. Also, KJV I John 1:8-10 states, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.... If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar, and his word is not in us.”

⁵ Exodus 15:11, I Samuel 6:20, Psalm 99:9, Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 15:4.

⁶ Deuteronomy 25:16, Psalm 11:5, Proverbs 6:16, Zechariah 8:17, Luke 16:15.

⁷ Isaiah 59:2 & 64:7, Hosea 5:6.

⁸ A condition customarily referred to as “original sin” or “the inescapable depravity of man.” If you have trouble believing that even a baby is a sinner, just consider how much time and effort a mother devotes to teaching her child “to be good.” She *never* has to work at teaching her child “to be bad.”

⁹ People downplay their own sinfulness by comparing themselves to others whom they believe to be worse than themselves – for example, Hitler. Some people cite Hitler as the epitome of evil. From God’s perspective, however, there is not much difference between Hitler and the rest of us. We are all sinners. If, in the final seconds of his life, Hitler repented of his sinfulness and accepted Jesus as his Savior and Lord, he will be among the redeemed in heaven. There is no sin that God’s grace cannot cover.

¹⁰ This helplessness is seldom acknowledged, but it is nonetheless an essential characteristic of the depravity of man.

¹¹ God selected his children before he laid the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8 & 17:8). In addition, God initiates the saving of a sinner (John 6:44). Unless God calls a person to repentance and faith,

that person will remain in his sin and unbelief. There is no aspect of salvation for which the beneficiary can claim credit.

¹² In English, the title of the Son of God is Messiah in Hebrew and the Christ in Greek, both of which mean the Anointed One.”

¹³ I believe that Golgotha - the Place of a Skull (Matthew 27:33, Mark 15:22, John 19:17) - was the 1st century AD name for the stone escarpment which is located just over 200 yards north-by-northeast of the Damascus Gate on the north side of Jerusalem’s Old City. It resembles the face of a human skull. In the 1st century AD, it would have been easily visible from the road running north from the Old City to Nablus and Damascus. It is currently called Jeremiah’s Grotto. Moreover, it is adjacent to the Garden Tomb, where I and many others believe Jesus was buried and which is now maintained by the non-profit Garden Tomb (Jerusalem) Association in the United Kingdom.

¹⁴ Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 1:9, 1 John 5:13.

¹⁵ Such as a priest; excepting the man Christ Jesus, who is the believer’s High Priest.

¹⁶ John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5.

¹⁷ Trust in.

¹⁸ Ephesians 2:8-9.

¹⁹ John 3:36.

²⁰ KJ21 John 14:6.

²¹ KJ21 Revelation 3:20.