

# What is the gospel?

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How many times have you heard people say "We go to a very good church you know – our pastor preaches the gospel." Everybody listening then nod their heads with gravity and understanding saying "Oh, that's good. Ours does too!"

So, what is the gospel? The following is a brief summary of most pastors' efforts at getting people into heaven.

## **WHY DON'T YOU TICK THE ONES THAT APPEAL TO YOU?**

- "Let Jesus come into your heart"
- "Come to Jesus. Things go better with him."
- "You won't find true happiness except through Jesus. Why not give him a go?"
- "Jesus wouldn't die for rubbish. He died to save someone special like you!"
- "If you've been doing it hard and you need a break. Why don't you let God love you tonight. Let him put his arms about you and swamp you with his love."
- "You've a God shaped vacuum in your heart that only He can fill. Let him fill that tonight."
- "Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart, won't you let Him in"
- "Let Jesus take over your life and see the difference"
- "Just confess your sins to God tonight and he'll forgive you."
- "God is love and he loves you right there where you are. Just come to him tonight and let him in and love you."
- "Slip up your hand if you want Jesus to be real in your life tonight and just come out the front and he'll meet you halfway."
- "Aren't you tired of just getting through life? You need Jesus!"
- "Stop trying to run your own life, let Jesus take control!"
- "Maybe you've tried everything else, and can't get your life together. Well there's a reason for that. You're doing it without God. Why not give him a go?"
- "Are you depressed? Anxious? Worried about the future? Stressed? You need God."
- "God has a plan for your life and you'll never know what it is until you give your heart to Jesus. What do you have to lose?"
- "We are all God's children and he loves everybody, so why don't you just come home to him."
- "Jesus opened the door to heaven, so if you repent and turn from your sins, he can save you."
- "Why not hand over to God tonight all the hurt and pain and let him take care of it."
- "Are you depressed, rundown, lost the will to live, worried about the future, just getting by everyday? Try Jesus and you'll be amazed what will happen in your life!"
- "Your transformed life is right here at the altar. Get out of your seat and claim a victorious life in God."

## **WELL, HOW DID YOU GO?**

You have to admit that some of them are pretty convincing right?

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Unfortunately, if you ticked any of the above, you do not know what the gospel is either. In fact, dear reader, you may not be saved. You may be just a heart beat away from hell.

### **SO WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?**

The gospel is God's action in sending Jesus Christ to a cross 2000 years ago. Although you weren't born then, God made the full and final payment for the future sins that you would commit.

God sent himself to a cross as Jesus and the blood that was shed made payment for your sins. The Bible says **"...for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."** (Leviticus 17:11)

This is why it is called the good news. **"Wow! All your sins paid for in full. Are you ever so grateful or what? Wow! Who are you going to thank for that?"**

### **THE GOSPEL IS NOT...**

It has nothing to do with whether you feel happy, sad, remorseful, depressed, fulfilled or whether you are a millionaire. It had nothing to do with whether you feel peaceful, spiritual or live a good moral life; whether you go to church or got baptised.

#### **1. THE PROBLEM:**

My friend, you are a sinner, you were born a sinner, you will die a sinner, you will be judged as a sinner, and you will be condemned a sinner. Furthermore, God is holy and without sin and won't let sin or sinners into heaven. In fact, God has prepared a place for you already. You are hell bound and will spend eternity in flames which will torment you forever. This is God's **just** punishment for your sin and sins.

#### **2. YOU WILL DIE A SINNER**

When Adam sinned, he set the scene for all future men in that they would die as a result of his sin **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"** (Romans 5:12).

#### **3. YOU WILL BE JUDGED A SINNER**

When you die you will stand before God to be judged. **"...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"** (Hebrews 9:27)

#### **4. YOU WILL BE CONDEMNED A SINNER**

Your good works won't be able to save you **"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."** (Isaiah 64:6)

#### **5. THE PROBLEM YOU NOW FACE**

Unless your sins are removed from you, God will not accept you into heaven and will cast you into everlasting flames forever.

#### **6. YOUR ONLY HOPE IS JESUS CHRIST**

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Jesus Christ took on himself your sins and paid for them because you can't. **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."** (Acts 4:12).

### **JESUS CHRIST PAID IN FULL**

Jesus Christ paid your way to heaven for you! By believing that he has done this for you, you will be receiving God's ONLY means of salvation for you! By believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins you can be washed from all your sins in his blood **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."** (Romans 5:8-9)

### **YOUR DECISION**

Will you have God's wrath of everlasting hell fire **OR**

Will you have God's love by believing that the shed blood of Jesus Christ paid for your sins?

**"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."** (John 3:36)

### **WHAT YOU MUST DO**

You must **renounce all faith and trust** in your love, your goodness, yourself, your good works, your baptism, your self righteousness, your church tradition and its sacraments, your religion. There's not a single thing you can add for your sin payment. Your 'sin-bill' has been paid for and cancelled. Will you believe it?

### **WILL YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART AS FOLLOWS?**

**"DEAR GOD,** I'm a lost sinner. Please save me because I can't save myself. **I believe** that the shed blood alone of Jesus Christ at the cross paid you for all my sins forever. Thank you that I now have everlasting life in heaven."