

THE “GOOD NEWS” OF JESUS

“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe” Rom. 3:21-22

Man needs a perfect righteousness to come into the presence of God. This is extremely bad news because no man has ever obtained a perfect righteousness. The cause is hopeless. However, the good news of Christ is that He did live a perfectly righteous life and gave Himself to die on a cross so that He could give us that righteousness. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus purchased our forgiveness and gave us His righteousness. He transferred all our sins upon Himself, and He transferred His righteousness to our account. Therefore, a guilty sinner who trusts in Christ’s sacrifice can come before a Holy God and be completely forgiven of his sin. Not only is he forgiven but he is seen as perfectly righteous before the Father, who is the judge of all. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”



Through Jesus Christ, the sinner’s sin is cast away from him and is never brought up again. Therefore, the believer will never be punished for any sin. All the punishment and justice of his sin was poured out on Christ. The believer may experience discipline and chastisement in order to bring him back into the will of God, but he will never receive punishment for any sin. Punishment was dealt at the cross.



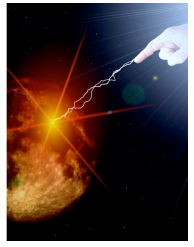
Titus 3:5-6

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour”

THE GOSPEL

The Father Crushed Him...

Jesus' death was not merely an example of sacrifice. It was not merely a demonstration of God's love. His death was a payment, a propitiation, which means an appeasement of God's wrath. Christ was not merely a victim of the



Roman executioners, nor was He just the victim of a Jewish conspiracy. Jesus willingly satisfied God's wrath on the believer's behalf. It was God who sacrificed Him. It was the Father who crushed Him. "Christ on the cross is the sacrifice that satisfies the righteous nature of God and brings salvation to human kind...The problem of how a holy God can receive into his presence those who by nature are unholy has been solved."

He was beaten and spit on. He was crucified and killed. It was the Father who



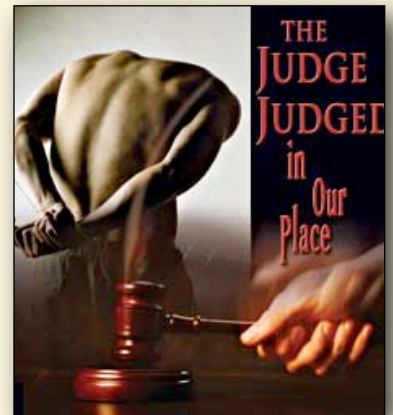
bruised and crushed Him. The perfect Son of God took the punishment that you and I deserve.



All Will Be Judged...

We must understand that God is a perfect judge and must judge all sin perfectly. He cannot let any sin go, if He did that, He wouldn't be God. Everything He does is perfect. This means that every single sin we commit must bear the punishment of a Holy and perfect God...every single sin. Every sinful thought, every cross word, and every unworthy deed must bear the perfect punishment of God.

But, does a single lie deserve an eternal punishment? - What happens if I lie to my kids? - nothing, they can't punish me. What if I lie to my wife? - maybe sleep on the couch. What if I lie to my boss? - get fired. What if I lie to a judge in court? - perjury, probably jail time. If I told a lie to the President of the U.S - in some cases this is high treason and the penalty is death. In all these cases, I only told one lie. Why was the punishment different in each case? Simple, it depends on the authority of the one to whom I lied. God is an ultimate, infinite authority, therefore even one lie (one sin) deserves an eternal infinite punishment.



THE GOSPEL

Salvation

The True Gospel

Many people don't realize it, but God's wrath against sin is a fundamental part of the gospel. Yet, this is the part of the gospel that so many people leave out! People need to know WHY they need a savior. No one ever reaches out for a savior until they understand why they need one. Unfortunately, many today say that people need the savior so they will be happier and more peaceful. This is not the biblical gospel.

The truth is that we are all utterly and completely sinful. We have rebelled against our creator and there is absolutely nothing "good" in us (Rom. 3:10-11).

If we have ever told a lie, that makes us a liar and God said, "all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 21:8). If we have ever taken something that doesn't belong to us, we are thieves and God said, "thieves

shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Co. 6:10).

If we have ever looked at another with lust, we are adulterers (Matt 5:27-28), and if we have ever hated someone, we are murderers before God (1 John 3:15).

The True Need

So, the reality of the situation is this. We are not "good" people. We are just the opposite. Our hearts are desperately wicked (Jer. 16:9) and there is no hope for us. God would be good and righteous if He destroyed us for our crimes. Unless He intervenes on our behalf, there is no hope for us.

This is why mankind needs a savior. People need to hear the bad news of sin before the good news of the gospel will make sense to them. Jesus didn't just come to show us what love looks like, He came to actually pay the price for our sin and purchase our salvation.

Only by trusting in His sacrifice and surrendering ourselves to His lordship do we receive His payment for our sin. All sin must be punished and all sin will be punished. The only question is, "Will you bear the punishment, or will Jesus bear it for you?"

The Gospel

- God is Perfectly Holy
- Man is incurably sinful
- God must punish all sin perfectly
- Jesus died to take the punishment
- Repent and Trust in the Savior

We do not have to be able to convince a sinner with our arguments. All we do is give them the gospel. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can bring a sinner to salvation. We deliver the gospel to mankind and God does the saving.

Repent

Repentance is simply turning around and going another direction. It is agreeing with God that sin is as horrible as He says it is, and it is a Godly sorrow for our sins.

Faith

Faith is simply trusting that Jesus is everything you need to be "right" with God. It is trusting that He is who He said He is and He will do what He said He will do.

Obedience

Obedience is a work of God in our lives. We do not obey Him in order to get to heaven. When we are saved, He comes into our lives and causes us to WANT to obey. We obey him because we are a new creature.

THE GOSPEL

The Gospel is For Believers too...

The gospel is simply that Jesus Christ has paid the full debt of sin and taken all God's wrath for the believer. Yet, this truth is much more than just the entry way into salvation. The fact that Jesus has given the believer a 100% perfect righteousness before God is a truth we must daily fight to believe.

"Fighting to believe" doesn't sound like something we should have to do, but it is. Our flesh is still corrupt and we are prone to fall back into sin, as well as fall back into thinking our works gain us approval from God. It is so very easy to do many good works and be proud, thinking that God sees our righteousness and is pleased. The truth is that God is pleased with us in Jesus Christ. Without Him, we have no righteousness at all, but with Him, we have a perfect standing.

Our Position is Secure...

Think about this for a moment. When you aren't doing very good living your Christian life, you should never despair because God sees only the perfect righteousness of Christ. That is good news isn't it? However, on the other side, you should never feel proud because you are doing really well either. Your works don't earn you anything before God. He only accepts the perfect righteousness of Christ. So, you don't have to fight, day in and day out, trying to prove your worth and value to God. Your value to Him is secure and perfect in Jesus Christ, whether you are doing great or not. You only have to fight to believe the gospel.



Fighting Sin is fighting to believe the gospel...

All believers hate sin. Many believers make commitments every day, never to do "such and such" again. However, most people find themselves right back at it again. It may be gossip, lust, lying, whatever your particular bent. Fighting sin is not just being beaten down with the rules. Its not just about your Christian "duty." Its about fighting to believe the truth. All sin says, "I can give you satisfaction. I can give your pleasure." Yet, the gospel says, "Jesus alone does that." When you fight to believe the truth (Sin cannot satisfy), you find it loses its appeal.



Church is not a weekly meet-and-greet. It is the instrument of growth

The Gospel Requires Action

Believing the gospel is a daily activity. It is not just a one time event. Every day we trust in Christ and His payment for our sin. Every day we believe that God's truth is right and what the world tells us is wrong. The gospel calls us to trust in the savior for our salvation, but it also calls us to a community. Please understand, You CANNOT live the Christian life apart from the body of Christ. You are called to be a member of the body and it should be obvious that a hand, a foot, or an eye cannot live, grow, or thrive outside of its body. Instead, it dies.

Likewise, you are also called to a mission. No one is saved by the gospel, who is not also called to be an ambassador and minister for Christ. Every day people are dying and entering into hell for eternity. Christ has called you to be His voice, His hands, and His feet. However, you are not to be His instrument alone. You have a body of others that join with you to fulfill the mission. You cannot grow in your Christian life outside of the community of believers, who share their lives, their struggles, and their victories.