

# What's the Good News?

## Getting the Gospel Right and Keeping It Right

*“The gospel is not only the most important message in all history; it is the only essential message in all of history.” Jerry Bridges*

### I. What is the gospel?

A. The gospel is not...

B. The gospel is... (1 Cor 15:1-4)

*(1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ESV)*<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

*We are accountable to the God who created us. And yet, we have all sinned against that God and will, therefore, be rightly judged by Him. But God has acted in Jesus Christ to save us, and we receive that salvation by repentance from sin and faith in Jesus' work on our behalf.*

*God, Man, Christ, Response<sup>i</sup>*

### II. Why is the gospel important (Rom 1:8-16; 2 Thess 1:7-9)?

*(Romans 1:8-16 ESV)*<sup>8</sup>First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. <sup>9</sup>For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup>always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup>For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— <sup>12</sup>that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. <sup>14</sup>I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. <sup>15</sup>So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. <sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

*(2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 ESV)*<sup>7</sup>and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup>in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup>They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

*“Early in my Christian life, I thought the Gospel was the message to win people to Christ, then, in disciple-making, one moved on to “deeper things.” What a fallacy! You never move beyond the Gospel. You go deeper and higher with the Gospel, but never beyond the Gospel.” P. J. Miller*

### III. Why must we protect the gospel from adjustment (Gal 1:1-10)?

*(Galatians 1:1-10 ESV)*<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—<sup>2</sup>and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup>to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. <sup>6</sup>I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup>not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup>As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. <sup>10</sup>For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

*“Very small errors in a person’s understanding of the gospel seems to result in very big problems in a person’s life” C. J. Mahaney*

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<sup>1</sup> *What is the Gospel*, by Greg Gilbert