

The Good News of the Gospel

The word _____ literally means _____!

I. What's the _____?

A. The "_____ " helps make our understanding of the " _____ " more vivid.

B. "The most terrifying news in the world is that we have fallen under the condemnation of our Creator and that he is bound by his own righteous character to preserve the worth of his glory by pouring out his wrath on the sin of our ingratitude." John Piper

C. That sin deserves hell is not a statement to the badness of sin rather one of the Greatness of God's Glory...of His Holiness.

II. What's the _____?

A. The _____ literally is "_____".

1. Jesus came to provide _____ of sins for all who believe.
2. The Gospel is about _____!

B. "Jesus Christ, the Son of God crucified, is the Wisdom of God, by which the love of God can save sinners from the wrath of God, and all the while uphold and demonstrate the righteousness of God."— John Piper

C. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is **the power of God** that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel, **the righteousness of God is revealed**—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:16-17

1. The Gospel is very _____ ...however, it is also much bigger than just me and Jesus!
2. The Gospel is not just a plan of salvation but it is also the very _____ of salvation.

III. The Gospel Message

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

F. _____

G. _____

H. _____

I. _____

J. _____

IV. What's so good about the Christians' "Good News"?

A. The Gospel provides salvation _____ by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ... by faith alone in Jesus Christ apart from works... All other major religious systems require _____ in order to receive eternal life, teach reincarnation, or reject the afterlife.

1. _____ believe that to reach Nirvana, a transcendental state of bliss, a person must follow the Noble Eightfold Path. This *process of personal effort and discipline* will end suffering for the individual.

2. _____ believe that one reaches Moksha—freedom from this world and the cycle of death and reincarnation—by practicing *self-sacrifice, meditation, and certain levels of self-realization*.

3. _____ believe that Allah grants Paradise to those who live a life of moral uprightness, using the Five Pillars as basic guidelines. Salvation comes through faith AND works where a balance of the good and bad of your life determines eternal destiny.

B. The Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia summarizes the gospel message this way:

"The central truth of the gospel is that God has provided a way of salvation for men through the gift of His son to the world. He suffered as a sacrifice for sin, overcame death, and now offers a share in His triumph to all who will accept it. The gospel is good news because it is a gift of God, not something that must be earned by penance or by self-improvement" (Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8–11; II Cor 5:14–19; Tit 2:11–14). The personal claims of Jesus and the espoused implications of his life, death, and resurrection stand in distinct contrast to other religions. This is what Christians through the years have called the gospel—which literally means "good news." The gospel of Jesus is the good news that everything has already been done for you. No other religion makes that kind of upfront gospel promise."

V. What this Gospel is _____!

A. We must take great care not to attach things to the Gospel that are NOT the Gospel.

B. What the Gospel is NOT—

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

a. _____

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”

b. _____

“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

4. _____

“You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?”

5. _____

a. We are not justified through feeding poor, building orphanages, reading the bible, praying— we are not justified through recycling, dancing, singing— we are justified through the shed blood of Jesus Christ..the sacrifice of the Lamb of God who was born of a virgin, crucified, dead, buried and rose again!

b. This is why there will be many “good people” who did a lot of “good things” in Hell. Being “good” is simply not “good enough.”

c. When we take Jesus’ sacrifice out of the Gospel and replace the message with moralism and religion, we are saying that the work of the Cross is not really enough to transform a life.

d. Outside of the Gospel, nothing we could ever do could restore our relationship with God. No action, no attitude...no nothing!

VI. Don't miss the good news

- A. The Good news of the Gospel wasn't the news that many in Jesus' day were hunting
1. They wanted a _____ and _____....but they didn't really have a political problem...they had a _____ problem.
 2. The Freedom they needed wasn't from the Romans but was from the _____ and _____. They needed freedom from...themselves.

B. The Jews of the day were still oppressed by the Romans...before, during, and after Jesus birth, life death, and resurrection.

C. What is our response when the news from heaven doesn't seem like good news to us? we want different news? We want "better" news. But, there is no better news than the Good News!

D. The good news is not a once in a lifetime opportunity.

1. "Brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to the good news that I preached to you, which you also **received** and in which **you stand**. You **are being saved** through it if you hold on to the message I preached to you, unless somehow you believed it for nothing. I passed on to you as most important what I also received: Christ died for our sins in line with the scriptures, he was buried, and he rose on the third day in line with the scriptures. He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve, 6and then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once—most of them are still alive to this day, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles," 1 Corinthians 15:1-7 (CEB)

2.The Gospel

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

E. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; 24-25

"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God....but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power** of God and the **wisdom** of God. 25For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."

F. The Gospel is not just a _____ of salvation but it is also the very _____ of salvation.