

# THE GOSPEL, PARTS 1 AND 2

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THE HISTORICAL, VERIFIABLE ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF JESUS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, AS DOCUMENTED BY THE APOSTLE JOHN.



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- (1 CORINTHIANS 15:3–4 ESV) FOR I DELIVERED TO YOU AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE WHAT I ALSO RECEIVED: 1) **THAT** CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES, 2) **THAT** HE WAS BURIED, 3) **THAT** HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES.
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## THE APOSTLE PAUL PREACHED THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD

1. The gospel is the historical, verifiable, documented account of the good news of God that reveals the saving grace of God in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- A. Historical speaks of providing evidence for a fact of actual history, past events; as in recorded events that have happened, and once existed, as opposed to being part of mere legend or fiction.
- B. Verifiable means something that can be proved to be true, genuine or real; able to be checked and proved to be true, accurate and correct.
- C. Documented ... If something is documented it has been written down or recorded with the purpose of showing the existence of, evidence for or truth of an event or process.

2. The Apostle Paul identified, clarified and emphasized that the gospel he preached was the good news of God for the salvation of humankind.

- (1 Corinthians 15:1–2 ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
- A. This was the gospel they had received, in which they stood and by which they were being saved.
- B. They were being saved by this gospel if they held fast to the gospel that Paul preached ... unless they believed in vain, i.e. they say they have faith but do not truly believe what they profess to believe.
- C. Paul notes in Galatians how quickly people desert Christ by turning to a different gospel.
  - (Galatians 1:6 ESV) 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.
- D. Paul also notes that there will be people who trouble those in the Church by distorting the gospel.
  - (Galatians 1:7 ESV) ... not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.
- E. Paul emphasizes that there is only one gospel and if anyone preaches otherwise let him be accursed.
  - (Galatians 1:8–9 ESV) 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. 9 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.

3. The Apostle Paul was very clear and concise in defining the gospel.

- (1 Corinthians 15:3–4 ESV) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

4. Any other “gospel” is a false gospel that seems right because it fits—it is acceptable and suitable to the ways and thoughts of earth.

- A. A false gospel is the product of a deceived heart and is non-historical, undocumented and unverifiable.
- B. A false gospel is an imagined way to God and heaven that seems right to people but leads to death.
  - (Proverbs 14:12 ESV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
- C. A false gospel is the notion of a self-righteous fool.
  - (Proverbs 12:15 ESV) The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.
- D. Humans by nature believe their concept of the gospel is pure and righteous.
  - (Proverbs 16:2 ESV) All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.
  - (Proverbs 21:2 ESV) Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.
- E. The person who believes a false gospel is wise in his own eyes—he rejects what God says in his word.
  - (Proverbs 26:12 ESV) Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
  - (Proverbs 3:7 ESV) Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

## **THE APOSTLE JOHN DOCUMENTED THE EVENTS OF THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD**

The historical, verifiable account of the death and burial of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, as documented by the Apostle John. In this account John documents parts one and two of the gospel, the death and burial of Jesus.

### **1. Jesus was crucified, 19:16-27.**

- (John 19:16–27 ESV) So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, 17 and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. 19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” 20 Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” 22 Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” 23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, 24 so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things, 25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” 27 Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

#### **A. Pilate delivered Jesus over to be crucified.**

- i. Pilate had lost the the negotiations with the Jews over the fate of Jesus.
- ii. To satisfy their demands he delivered Jesus over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

#### **B. The soldiers took Jesus and crucified him.**

#### **C. Providence: Pilate wrote a sign to be hung above Jesus on the cross.**

It was common that a crime the person had committed would be written on a sign and either hung around the person’s neck as he traveled to the cross or hung on the cross itself. Since Jesus had committed no crime Pilate, in the providence of God, chose the title that not only proclaimed a powerful truth but also was a stern rebuke for the Jews who had betrayed their King.

#### **D. Providence: The Roman soldiers fulfilled Scripture.**

- i. The soldiers crucified Jesus, took his clothes and divided them—one piece of clothing for each soldier.
- ii. This left his tunic which was one piece so they cast lots to determine who would get the tunic.
- iii. The dividing of his clothes and casting lots for the tunic fulfilled Scripture.

#### **E. Four faithful women stood by the cross.**

- (Matthew 27:55–56 ESV) There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.
- (Luke 23:48–49 ESV) And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. 49 And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.
- (Luke 8:2–3 ESV) And also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

### **2. Jesus died, 19:28-30.**

- (John 19:28–30 ESV) After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a

sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, **"It is finished,"** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

A. Jesus knew his work was finished.

B. Debt paid in full he gave up his life.

C. He had struck the death blow—crushing the devil, the ancient serpent.

- (Hebrews 2:14 ESV) Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, **that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.**
- (Genesis 3:15 ESV) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; **he shall bruise your head,** and you shall bruise his heel.
- (Romans 16:20a ESV) **The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.**

### 3. Jesus' death was verified, 19:31-37.

- (John 19:31-37 ESV) Since it was the day of Preparation, **and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.** 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33 **But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.** 34 But one of the soldiers **pierced his side with a spear,** and at once there came out blood and water. 35 **He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.** 36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." 37 And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

A. The soldiers knew Jesus was dead—the blood and water verified his death.

B. John verifies the death of Jesus.

- i. He saw this as an eye witness and gave testimony.
- ii. He asserts that his testimony is true and accurate as described and he has the deep conviction of the Holy Spirit that his testimony is true.
- iii. His example teaches that true testimony must be given so that people may believe and be saved.

### 4. Jesus was buried, 19:38-42.

- (John 19:38-42 ESV) After these things **Joseph of Arimathea,** who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, **and Pilate gave him permission.** So he came and took away his body. 39 **Nicodemus also,** who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 **So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.** 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

A. Joseph of Arimathea asked permission to take away the body of Jesus and Pilate gave his permission.

B. Nicodemus helped and these two men who were members of the Sanhedrin buried Jesus.

### CONCLUSION: DO WE KNOW WE ARE TELLING THE TRUTH?

John knew ... So do we have that strong, true testimony of the word of the truth of the gospel alive in our hearts? Do we share a true Gospel so that people may believe and live?

- (1 John 5:13 ESV) **I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know** that you have eternal life.
- (John 20:31 ESV) But **these are written so that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.