

gospel, first **believing** in God and in Christ as the Son of God, **turning away from a life of sin**, and **confessing our faith in Jesus**, finally we come to the point of being **buried by baptism in water** as He was buried in the grave, and being **raised** to walk in newness of life.

Through picturing in our actions a form of what Jesus did for us, through obeying what He has asked us to do, the Lord saves us from our sins and adds us to His church (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:10; Acts 2:47).

Concerning this obedience, Paul said, *“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness”* (Romans 6:17,18).

That is, just as Christ died **for** our sins, we die **to** sin; as Christ was buried in the **grave**, we are buried in the **waters of baptism**; as He was resurrected from the **tomb**, we are resurrected from the watery grave of **baptism** to live a new life. That is the sig-

nificance of the gospel and of obeying a “form” of it.

God saves all those who obey Him from the heart, as is explained in detail in the second chapter of Acts. On that day the gospel was preached for the first time and the doors of the kingdom were opened to those who would accept God’s offer of salvation. The blood of Christ is God’s answer to the sins that separate us from Him.

Have you obeyed the gospel? You must do this if you want to be forgiven of your sins, so that you may enter Christ and His church, which is His Family, composed of the saved people.

“The churches of Christ salute you”
(Romans 16:16).

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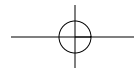
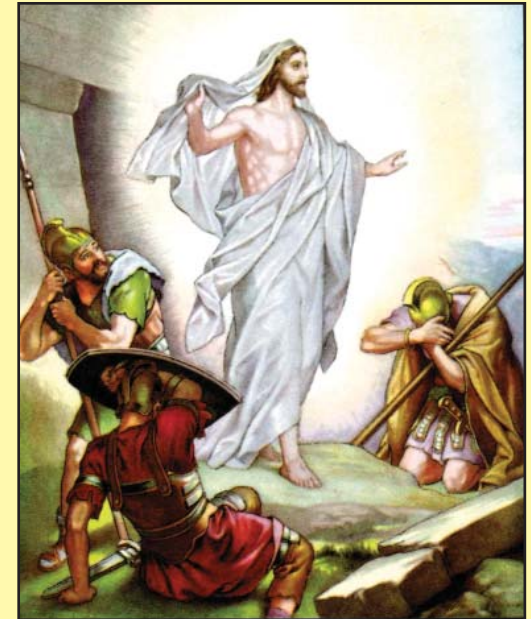
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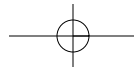
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What Is the Gospel?

J.C. Choate





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The word “gospel” is defined as “good news” and “glad tidings”. The apostle Paul said, “*How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things*” (Romans 10:15).

Can you imagine what it would be like, never to have heard of the God of creation, to know nothing of His great love for mankind, and not to be aware of the salvation from sin that was made possible by the willing sacrifice of Christ? How different and bleak such a world would be!

But today, in this little message, you have the opportunity to learn these great truths, even if you have never heard them before, or if they have not been explained in accordance with the Bible. We want to share the “good news” with you:

The good news of Christ is that He loved us so much that He died in our place, for our sins, that He was buried, and that He triumphed over death in His resurrection

from the grave. It is because of these facts that we can be saved from our sins and have the hope of eternal life.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians, “*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, If ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; and that **he was buried**, and that **he rose again** the third day, according to the scriptures*”(1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The Bible teaches that we must **believe** the *facts* of the gospel but that there are also *commands* of the gospel which must be **obeyed** if one expects to be saved. Just before Jesus returned to His Father in heaven (Acts 1:9-11), He instructed the apostles, “*Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature*” (Mark 16:15). Of course they were to preach that Christ had died on the cross, had been buried, and had

been resurrected from the grave on the third day as had been prophesied. But they were also told to preach, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*” (Mark 16:16).

Paul was inspired to write to the church at Thessalonica, “*And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that **know not God**, and that **obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power*” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Peter wrote, “*For the time is come that **judgment must begin** at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that **obey not the gospel of God?**” (1 Peter 4:17).*

To help us better understand how we can *obey the gospel*, keep in mind that the gospel — the good news — itself is the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. Then, as we *obey the commands* of the

