

Clarifying the Confusion About the Gospel
Pastor John Clark – Friday, January 26, 2024 – 6pm Session

A. *Introductory Comments*

B. *The Gospel and Its Biblical Response are Under Attack*

1. The gospel message and the biblical response to it is under Satanic attack and will _____ be under Satanic attack. (See 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; 1 John 5:19; Ephesians 6:12).
2. Now, why does Satan attack the gospel?
 - a. The gospel is the **ONLY** _____ that will save lost mankind.
 - b. The gospel is the **ONLY** _____ that is acceptable to God for salvation. (See Romans 1:16)
3. The Gospel involves...the **RIGHT** _____ and the **RIGHT** _____!
4. The biblically prescribed response to the Gospel requires...the **RIGHT** _____!

C. *First Point of Clarity: What IS the Gospel?*

1. Defining the word “gospel”
 - a. The Greek word for gospel is **EUANGELION** which means good news and the word was used in Greek _____ for any type of good news.
 - b. However, the writers of the New Testament developed a special or _____ meaning for the word **EUANGELION**, or Gospel, by articulating it (i.e., adding the word “the” in front of it).
 - c. By doing so, they were speaking of a particular message of good news, which saved people from serious spiritual and eternal _____.
2. What do we need to be saved from?
 - a. Implied in the term “salvation” and Jesus’ title as “Savior” is that mankind _____ to be saved. The question becomes saved from “what?”
 - b. In other words, to truly _____ “the” Gospel, we must first recognize the bad news and the need for “the” **EUANGELION**.
 - 1) God is holy and righteous, and we are NOT!
 - a) The bad news is simply this...we are born _____ from God due to Adam’s sin, and we _____ our position in Adam through personal acts of sin (Romans 5:12-14).

- b) The Law was given to further prove this truth and to shut our mouths in an attempt to _____ ourselves or to declare ourselves righteous (Romans 3:19-20).
- 2) A holy and just God must punish sin. Sin's consequence is described as "death," and by definition, "death" means _____.
- a) This consequence is a result of our lack of _____ righteousness and the breaking of God's Law...God must punish lawbreakers.
- b) Death is described in Romans 6:23 as "wages owed" or something *earned* or _____.
- c) This "death" is multi-level in that it explains why every human being dies _____, but also describes spiritual death (separation from _____), and the Second Death (or separation from God for _____ in the Lake of Fire) (Revelation 20:11-15).
- 3) Our two-fold problem that we need to be saved from can be summarized as: (1) We have a debt we cannot pay, AND (2) We do not have the perfect righteousness needed to enter heaven (God's perfect place).
3. The Gospel Explained – The Irreducible Minimums (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)
- a. The irreducible _____ of the gospel message can be summarized by two main "ingredients":
- 1) **THE RIGHT PERSON:** The good news is about a person...the _____ - _____, Jesus Christ.
- 2) **THE RIGHT WORK:** The good news is the actual, historical, and verifiable _____ that records what God did through the person and work of Jesus Christ in order to offer salvation to all humanity.
- b. The **RIGHT** Person – Two Components (Fully God and Fully Man)
- 1) Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word _____ (John 7:41)
- 2) The Christ/Messiah was to be a _____. (Romans 1:3)
- 3) The Messiah is the person (seed of the woman) who has been promised to one day solve mankind's two-fold _____ (Genesis 3:15).
- 4) The Christ was to be _____...Christ would be God residing with us (Isaiah 7:14; Romans 1:4).
- 5) Why is His person important? Part of man's problem was the death penalty. The

Christ had to be human to truly die, and He had to be divine for His death to count for others.

c. The ***RIGHT*** work – Two Components (Death and Resurrection)

1) Christ died for our sins - Christ suffered spiritual, eternal, and physical death. He paid the _____ death penalty in all its multi-level aspects.

a) There are TWO _____ proofs to convince us that He did indeed die for us:

† ***First:*** “According to the scriptures” - Just as God said it would happen. (Psalm 22:17-18; 69:11; Isaiah 53:3-6; Daniel 9:26; Zechariah 12:10; Luke 24:46)

† ***Second:*** “Christ was buried” - You do not bury the living!

2) Christ was _____ on the third day.

a) There are TWO _____ proofs to convince us that He did rise again:

† ***First:*** “According to the scriptures” - Just as God said it would happen. (Psalm 16:8-11; Job 19:25-26; Isaiah 25:8; 53:10)

† ***Second:*** “He was seen” - The resurrected Christ was seen by many witnesses (See verses 5-8).

3) Why is the ***RIGHT*** work important? Because this is the ***ONLY*** solution that can take care of our two-fold problem!

4. Now, let’s consider how religious thinking messes this all up!

- a. Mormonism Quotes on the Gospel
- b. Jehovah’s Witnesses Quotes on the Gospel
- c. Unnamed Evangelicals Quotes on the Gospel
- d. How EERILY similar!

D. Second Point of Clarity: What is the Prescribed Biblical Response to the Gospel?

1. According to the Scriptures there is ***only one*** response _____ of man - It is faith alone in Christ alone.

2. There are 160 verses in the New Testament which describe faith or belief in Christ as the only _____ for salvation (Acts 16:30-31, John 6:47, John 8:24, John 11:25-26, John 20:30-31, etc.).

3. What is biblical faith?

a. The Greek words “pistis” (noun) and “pisteuo” (verb) literally mean believe in, rely

- upon, trust in, or have faith in.
- b. “BELIEVE” is a verb and it requires a _____ (someone who does the trusting) and an _____ (something or someone in whom to trust).
 - c. The _____ of one’s faith relies solely on the _____ or ability of the object in which one trusts (Jeremiah 17:5-8).
 - d. Faith is _____ from the category of “works” by the Scriptures (Romans 4:4-5)
4. Simply put: God has ONE and ONLY ONE solution to our two-fold problem – it is Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection - and those who have relied on God’s solution will be saved.
 5. Now, let’s consider how religious thinking messes this all up!
 - a. Mormonism Quotes on the response to the Gospel
 - b. Jehovah’s Witnesses Quotes on the response to the Gospel
 - c. Catholic church Quotes on the response to the Gospel
 - d. Unnamed Evangelicals Quotes on the response to the Gospel
 - e. How EERILY similar!
 6. Religion’s Salvation Response Checklist: (1) Believe in Jesus, (2) Repent, (3) Be Baptized, (4) Obey/Be Faithful, (5) Endue to the End.

E. Concluding Thoughts