

The Gospel

- **John 3:16-17** "For God so LOVED the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not PERISH but have EVERLASTING LIFE. For God did NOT send His Son into the world to CONDEMN the world, but that the world through Him might be SAVED."
- **Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
- **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- **Revelation 3:20** Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear My voice and open the door, I WILL COME IN to him and will sup with him, and he with Me."
- **John 1:12** "But as many as RECEIVED Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."
- **John 6:37** "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and him that comes to Me I will by no means cast out."
- **John 10:26-29** Jesus said, "You do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My Sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall NEVER perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."
- **I John 5:13** "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may KNOW that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God."
- **Romans 5:1** "Therefore, being justified by FAITH, we have PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **II Timothy 3:15-16** "And that from a child you have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through FAITH which is in CHRIST JESUS. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."
- **John 1:1-3 & 14** "In the BEGINNING was the WORD, and the Word was with God, and THE WORD WAS GOD. He was in the beginning with God. All things were MADE THROUGH Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. And the WORD BECAME FLESH and DWELT among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."
- **I Timothy 3:16** "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: GOD was manifested in the FLESH, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, BELIEVED on in the world, received up in glory."

The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ. You must put your trust in and believe with your heart the account given in the Bible, God's holy word. Then, salvation, atonement, and eternal life will be yours due to God's grace or unmerited favor. The word of God states that God came to earth in human form in the Person of Jesus the Christ, that He would make atonement for the sins of the whole world. To do this, He would have to die - sinless, at the hand of sinful man. Jesus had determined to do just that. Jesus was arrested, tried in an illegal hearing, sentenced to death by crucifixion. He was hung on a cross where He shed His innocent blood as payment for the sins of the whole world. After He had given up the spirit, His body was taken down from the cross, prepared for burial, and laid in a tomb hewn out of rock, and a large stone was rolled in front of the opening, so that no one could enter. On the third day after His death, Jesus came forth from the grave bodily - that is, He could be touched - He was not just a spirit. However, He could also just appear behind closed doors, and He walked and ate with His disciples. He was seen alive by over 500 people after His death on the cross. This clearly demonstrated His power over death and life. By His resurrection, He won victory over sin, Satan and death, so that we can obtain eternal life and not have to spend eternity in hell, separated from God forever. I John 5:13 says, "These

things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may KNOW that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Salvation is available to "whosoever will" - to anyone who will make the decision to accept the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has already done for us on the cross. Every person must make that decision, either to accept or reject Him. If a child dies before the age of accountability, their sins are already paid for by Jesus' death on the cross, and they automatically go to heaven - into the arms of Jesus. The age of accountability is anywhere between nine and thirteen years old, depending on the child. It means the age at which a child can truly distinguish between right and wrong, and only God knows the heart, as to whether someone has reached that age.

Adam and Eve were the father and mother of the human race. They knew God, and what was required to maintain fellowship with Him. But as humankind became more and more disobedient to God, the Bible says it grieved God in His heart that He had ever made man. On the whole earth, God could only find one man who was obedient and trusted God - his name was Noah. Because of his belief, trust, and obedience, God chose him and his family to preserve the human race on the earth, along with all the animals God had created - one male and one female would be preserved to replenish the earth. Every other living thing to which He had given life would die. God caused a great flood to cover the earth, and everything was destroyed except Noah and those with him on the ark. Noah and his family knew how to worship God. The first thing Noah did when the waters subsided and they could leave the ark, was to build an altar to worship God. Noah and his sons knew what was required for proper worship of the Creator. I am sure Noah's sons taught their sons and daughters just what was required of them, but somehow mankind always tries to do it their own way, instead of the Creator's way. Just stop and think how perverted some manmade religions have become! Is it any wonder that a just and loving God has pronounced the whole world guilty? I think not! Remember, the Creator of the universe came to earth as a man, Jesus, to walk among His people and to show by example how they were to worship and love the Father and their fellow man with a pure heart. Then, He took the penalty for our failure to do just that. Oh! How He loves us. Because of His boundless grace He went to the cross at Calvary to die of a broken heart, and to take all of our sins and the penalty they deserve on Himself. That is love! It is in the spirit of love that I share all this with you, with the hope and prayer that the Lord will touch your hearts and raise us all up to boldly proclaim the glorious gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ with a sin-stained world. Remember, God is not looking for our ability, but for our availability. God bless you all as Ambassadors of Christ.

In His service,
Pastor Tom