

San Juan Church of Christ

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What does God's Word Say About...

Gospel of Christ

The word "gospel" translates a Greek word that means "good news." The gospel is a message that believers are to preach to all the world (Mark 16:15). It is a message that brings hope to those who have heard the gospel and continue in the faith (Col. 1:23). The gospel "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

The gospel is the good news about Christ's life and the first four books of the New Testament give an account of God coming into the world (Mark 1:1). It is the good news that God lived among men (John 1:14). It is the good news of what the Son of God did for us through His death, burial, and resurrection and is the core of the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

The gospel as proclaimed by the apostle Paul was about Jesus and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2). The question needs to be asked at this point, "Does the gospel just include Christ's life, death, burial, and resurrection?" Many will teach that this is the totality of the gospel message. They teach that if we believe Christ died for our sins, we are saved solely by His grace and mercy without obedience to the word. The denominational churches try to seek unity by teaching that we are to believe the gospel and not teach "doctrine."

According to them we should not divide over baptism, the Lord's Supper, instruments of music, tithing, marriage and divorce, etc., because all of this falls into "DOCTRINE," and we have no right to bind doctrine on anyone. In other words they would say do not make the gospel complicated.

The apostle Peter wrote that the gospel is the word of God (1 Peter 1:22-25). Paul also wrote, "I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you...by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you" (1 Cor. 15:1-2). Now we learn the Gospel and the Word are the same. In John 17:17, Jesus said, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." From these passages we learn that the "Word" is "Truth," so, what is called the "Gospel" is called the "Word" and what is called the "Word" is called "Truth." The Word of God is also called the "Seed" in Luke 8:11. We can now see that the Gospel is called the Word, the Word is called Truth, and the Truth is called the Seed. All of these terms describe the entire Word of God, from the book of Matthew through the book of Revelation.

In 2 Timothy 4:2-3, Paul told Timothy to "preach the word... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." This scripture teaches that preaching the Word is "sound doctrine." The totality of the Gospel, the Word, the Truth, and the Seed, is called sound doctrine. There is no distinction in the New Testament between the word Gospel and Doctrine. When one obeys the Gospel they become "obedient from the heart to that form of doctrine to which you were committed" (Romans 6:17).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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