

Which Gospel are You Preaching?

By: Francis H. Adams

“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few” (Matthew 9:37).

Some 2000 years ago Jesus made a profound statement that is still applicable today. As the world population continues to increase the challenge of bringing the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to the whole world remains an ever-growing challenge.

What is the harvest and who are the laborers? The harvest refers to the work of God and the laborers are the workers of God. The charge, given by the Lord in Matthew 28:19-20 stresses the importance of going to the whole world to preach the Gospel. It begins with the word “Go”. Jesus said His prime duty was to do the work of His father; preaching about the good news of the kingdom of God.

Christians today should be telling people of Jesus Christ. If not, are we really doing the work of God? Our generation is being hit by the preaching of another Gospel. Paul in his letter to the Galatians warned, “Even if we or an angel from Heaven should preach a Gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned” (Galatians 1:8,9). Paul was disturbed when he realized that some Galatians were promoting different doctrines contrary to the ones they first heard. He then repeated the warning in verse 14. Even if he should come with a different doctrine, he should be condemned.

As Christians we must be cautious about what we do and say because we are not of our own. The precious blood of Christ has bought us. We live by the power of Jesus Christ. In I Timothy 4:16 Paul advised, “Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine, continue in them, For in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee”. The best thing for every Christian to do is to know the doctrines of God and stick to them.

Many people are knowingly or unknowingly trying to change the true identity of Christ (His Spirit and His Gospel with the teachings of men). The world and everything in it can change but Christ forever remains the same (Hebrews 13:8). Heaven and earth will pass away but the Word of God will remain the same.

Three Things Happening:

“For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preach, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you possess or a different Gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough” (2

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| Jerusalem | Acts 2:38 |
| Samaria | Acts 8:12-17 |
| The Ethiopian Eunuch | Acts 8:26-40 |
| Saul | Acts 9:17-19 |
| Caesarea | Acts 10:44-48 |
| Ephesus | Acts 19:1-7 |

Any message apart from this is another Gospel. The Lord promised to add all other things to us if we seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). Healing, spiritual protection, marriage, jobs, giving birth, and others are all bonuses from the Lord. You will receive them if you do first things, first. Let us not allow anyone to deceive us any longer. Times and events have changed but the salvation message is still the same.

What the Gospel Portrays:

1. The power of God to us (Romans 1:16; I Corinthians 1:18; I Corinthians 15:1-2).
2. The grace of God (Acts 14:3; Acts 20:32).
3. The love of God (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).
4. The Deity of Christ (John 1:1-14; John 8:50-60; Matthew 28:18; John 14:1-10; John 10:30).
5. The means to the Kingdom of Heaven (John 3:5; Matthew 3:11-12).

Do you really take the great Commission seriously? What type of Gospel do you preach? Let us be careful in dividing the Word of Truth. Examine your message today and see if it is about repentance, water baptism in Jesus' name and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking in other tongues, as the Spirit gives the utterance. If not, change it today for the sake of your salvation.

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Corinthians 11:4, New International Version).

1. Another Jesus is being preached

People are boldly preaching about a completely different Jesus from the Savior of the world. Their message is that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity. This is unfounded. The Apostles saw Him as the in whom dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9).

The Apostles proclaimed the only God incarnated in the flesh (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14; John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-19). Which Jesus are you preaching? When He came to this world He did not say He was the second person of the Trinity. He said He was the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last (Revelation 1:17; Revelation 22:13).

2. Another Spirit is being preached

There are those preaching and teaching that the Holy Spirit is another person independent of Jesus the Creator. This is not Biblical. The Holy Spirit is not another person or spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2; Joel 2:28; Romans 8:14; I Corinthians 3:16).

Sometimes the Bible refers to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Christ (Philippians 1:19; I Peter 1:11; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Isaiah 63:14; Galatians 4:6). This is no contradiction because Jesus Christ was God in flesh.

3. Another Gospel is being preached

The message of prosperity has currently taken many people unaware. Some modern day preachers, pastors, evangelist and apostles are spreading false news that Christianity is prosperity. Many are being deceived to accept this message.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith did not send us to preach about riches. He did not ask us to give empty and ambitious promises to people. False promises will not stand the test when examined in the light of the Word of God. Let the Word of God be the only source of truth (2 Corinthians 2:17, 4:2; 2 Peter 2:19; Galatians 2:4; Colossians 2:8; Matthew 15:9; 2 Timothy 4:3-5; I Timothy 4:1,2).

The True Gospel

What is the gospel that Jesus and His followers preached?

According to the *Practical Bible Dictionary and Concordance*, "Gospels" refers to "The four initial books of New Testament, containing the biographies of Christ." In the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English*, "Gospel" is explained as, "Any of the four books of the Bible which contain

details of the life of Jesus Christ."

Paul made it clear in I Corinthians 15:1-4 "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures." Gospel therefore means "the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ." This charge was given to the apostles and to us.

The death of Jesus is likened to the repentance of a sinner. When one repents of his sins it means he is dead to sin. Dying to sin is a very important step to be taken by every human being in the process of salvation. It is the first step; the first aspect of the Gospel message (Acts 17:30; Luke 13:5; Ezekiel 14:6; Matthew 3:2).

Secondly, Christians have been charged to preach about the burial of the Lord Jesus. Jesus died, was buried and on the third day rose again. Burial has to do with baptism. Preaching about burial means preaching about baptism. People who accept Christ must identify themselves not only with the death of Christ but also with His burial (Romans 6:1-4; Colossians 2:12).

After burial came the famous resurrection – the hope of Christians. The Lord did not remain in the grave but rose again. This makes Christianity unique from all other forms of religions in the world. He rose again and declared, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). The resurrection of Jesus was not magical but miraculous. When we are dead to sin (repentance) and buried (water baptism) we need to resurrect (receive the Holy Spirit with the initial sign of speaking in tongues). The Holy Spirit makes us alive, awake, and aware of the will of God.

The gospel message is telling people about the need to repent, be baptized by immersion in the name of Jesus, and receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

This is the plan of salvation, the message the apostles preached as written in Acts. From the day of Pentecost when the promised Holy Spirit came upon them, they started preaching about repentance and remission of sins in the Name of Jesus. They baptized people in the name of Jesus and prayed for people to receive the Holy Spirit baptism.

Check the records: