

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

April 3, 2022

The Purpose of the Gospel

By Derek Long

The word "gospel" is a translation of a Greek word meaning basically "good news." 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 tells us of some of the major points in the gospel message. The gospel would include things such as Jesus dying for our sins, being buried, rising from the dead on the third day, and being seen by witnesses after His resurrection. The gospel not only tells us about what Jesus did in order to save us from our sins but it also tells us about how we should live in response to those facts. 1 Timothy 1:8-11 speaks about different sinful behaviors and says such things are, "contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust" (NKJV). The gospel would condemn sinful behaviors according to this passage. The gospel is a term which applies to really the entirety of the New Testament teaching.

God's intent is for the gospel to be preached to every creature (Mark 16:15). God determined for His plan to save mankind to be manifested to the world through preaching (Titus 1:1-3). Preaching of the gospel is essential if people are going to call upon the name of the Lord and thus be saved (Romans 10:13-15). The gospel is a message which God has given to be proclaimed to all men. What is the purpose of the gospel?

The purpose of the gospel to some is to solve crime. If people will live based upon the teachings of the gospel, they will not be committing crimes (Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 13:1). However, the gospel acknowledges the fact it will not completely eradicate crime from a society. Jesus said, “Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!” (Matthew 18:7, NKJV). The gospel will not be able to create the sort of utopian society some envision because not everyone will accept the gospel.

The purpose of the gospel to some is to relieve poverty and suffering in the world. The gospel does teach Christians collectively as local churches to supply the needs of the saints (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; Romans 15:25-27; 2 Corinthians 9:12). The Bible does not authorize Christians collectively as a local church to supply the needs of non-Christians because there is no Bible authority for such. The Bible does teach individual Christians to be generous and to help those who are in need (Galatians 6:10; Luke 10:25-37). The Bible admits poverty will not be completely eradicated though (Mark 14:7). The gospel is not focused on raising people out of financial poverty so much as providing them with spiritual riches in Christ (Ephesians 3:8).

The purpose of the gospel is to save the soul. Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (NKJV). The gospel is God’s power to save mankind. The gospel is not focused on saving mankind from societal problems but on saving mankind from sin (Romans 6:23). James 1:21 encourages us, “Therefore

lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (NKJV). The word is able to save our souls. If the purpose of the gospel is simply to prevent people from being criminals or rescue them from poverty, then the gospel is not needed by people who are not criminals or in poverty. If the purpose of the gospel is to save men from their sins, then all men need the gospel because all have sinned (Romans 3:23). It is important to realize that if the gospel removed all crime and poverty in the lives of people but did not save their souls what would it really profit. Jesus said, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26, NKJV).