

Part 3. The Gospel

Lesson 1: The Gospel and Salvation

Lesson Summary

The Gospel is the Good News of **Jesus Christ**—His sinless life, atoning death, and victorious resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3–6). **Salvation** is the result of receiving this Gospel: deliverance from sin, reconciliation with God, and the gift of eternal life (John 3:16; Rom. 10:9–10). The Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—testify to Christ’s mission as Messiah, Servant, Savior, and Son of God (Luke 19:10; John 20:31). The Law revealed human sin and pointed to Christ, whose sacrifice fulfilled its demands (Rom. 3:23; Heb. 10:10). Salvation comes through faith alone, not works (Eph. 2:8–9), and results in new birth (John 3:3), new nature (2 Cor. 5:17), and new identity as God’s children (1 John 3:1). This new life produces fruit—joy, love, obedience, and the Spirit’s work within (Gal. 5:22–23). Water baptism then follows as an act of obedience and testimony, not as a requirement for salvation (Rom. 6:3–5). The Gospel is God’s power to save and transform, inviting all who believe to eternal life.

Key Takeaways

- **Gospel vs. Salvation:** The Gospel is the message; salvation is the result (Rom. 1:16).
- The four Gospels show Christ as **Messiah, Servant, Savior, and Son of God** (Luke 19:10; John 3:16).
- Salvation is **by grace through faith alone**—not by works (Eph. 2:8–9; Rom. 3:28).
- To be saved is to be **born again** by the Spirit (John 3:3; Titus 3:5).
- Salvation makes us a **new creation in Christ** (2 Cor. 5:17).
- The new life is marked by **fruit**: joy, love, obedience, and holiness (Gal. 5:22–23; John 14:15).
- **Water baptism** is an act of obedience and public testimony, not a condition for salvation (Rom. 6:3–5).
- The church exists to **proclaim and protect the Gospel**, equipping believers for witness (Matt. 28:19–20; Acts 1:8).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** What is the difference between the Gospel and salvation?
A: The Gospel is the Good News of Christ’s death and resurrection; salvation is the deliverance and new life received by believing it (1 Cor. 15:3–4; John 3:16).
2. **Q:** Why must we understand the “bad news” before the Good News?
A: Because sin separates us from God and demands judgment (Rom. 3:23), making Christ’s work necessary.
3. **Q:** How do the four Gospels uniquely present Jesus?
A: Matthew shows Him as Messiah; Mark as Servant; Luke as Savior of the lost; John as the eternal Son of God.
4. **Q:** How is salvation received?
A: By grace through faith in Christ alone, not by works (Eph. 2:8–9; Rom. 10:9–10).
5. **Q:** What does it mean to be “born again”?
A: To receive new spiritual life through the Holy Spirit (John 3:3; Titus 3:5).

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6. **Q:** What changes mark a new creation in Christ?
A: Joy, love, hunger for God's Word, obedience, and the fruit of the Spirit (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:22–23).
7. **Q:** What is the purpose of water baptism?
A: To publicly declare faith in Christ and identify with His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3–5; Gal. 3:27).
8. **Q:** What is the church's role regarding the Gospel?
A: To teach sound doctrine, proclaim salvation, and equip believers for mission (Heb. 10:24–25; Acts 1:8).

“The Gospel is God's power to save—bringing new birth, new life, and eternal hope to all who believe in Christ.”