

What is The Gospel?

Quotes and Verses to Remind and Encourage Our Hearts in Christ

Compiled by Drue Warner

druew@perimeter.org

The question, "What is the gospel?" is a very important question to be able to answer with simplicity and clarity. The original Greek for the word "gospel" means "good news." The following quotes and verses are intended to help remind and resource us in understanding, experiencing, and explaining the good news of *"God doing for us what we could never do for ourselves."*

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. – 1 John 4:9-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. – Colossians 1:13

"The gospel message is not about performance and work (in what we do), but is about acceptance and rest (in what Christ has done for us)." – Drue Warner

And to the one who does not work but believes in^[a] him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. – Romans 4:5

If you died today and stood before the throne of God, and He were to ask you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" (NOTE: I don't believe that's going to happen, but if it did...) What would you say? The truth is that you could answer that question without even uttering one word. All you would need to do is to raise your arm and point to Jesus, because it's by His work alone and His righteousness that we find favor with God. Our best works are filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling (from the hymn "Rock of Ages Cleft for Me"). "The only thing we contribute to our salvation is the sin that makes it necessary (William Temple)." We are accepted, embraced, adopted, and loved by God, not by anything that we have done or will do, but by what Christ has done on our behalf.

"God does not love sinners because they are attractive; sinners are attractive to God because he loves them."
- Martin Luther

"The Gospel may be explained to little children (as well as to adults) in simplest fashion by declaring that '*Jesus took our spanking... and in exchange He gave us chocolate cake.*' At the cross, Jesus took upon Himself our punishment that we deserved. Not only that, but He gave us His perfect righteousness, so that now, when the Father looks upon us, He sees Jesus. We are hidden in the righteousness and love of Christ." – Drue Warner

"We lost it all. He (Jesus) did it all. We get it all." – Randy Pope

The gospel can be explained in a simple and easy way by using the acronym G.R.A.C.E., which stands for God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:21

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. – 2 Corinthians 8:9

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. – Galatians 4:4-7

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. - Titus 3:3-6

“Since the penalty for offending an infinite God requires an infinite price, it is only God who can pay it—and he did!” – Unknown

“The only thing we contribute to our salvation is the sin that makes it necessary.” - William Temple (a bishop in the Church of England in the 1920’s – 1940’s)

*"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."
- C.S. Lewis*

*¹⁵ “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.
– Galatians 2:15-16*

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." - C.S. Lewis

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. – Romans 8:1-4

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” – John 6:29

“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.” – Martin Luther

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. – Galatians 5:6

"To get Jesus, the only thing you need, is need." - Ray Cortese