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The Gospel from Golgotha

Introduction

- “Gospel” — Gr. *Evangelion* = Good News
— Root word → “*Godspell*” (Anglo Saxon)
= story of God

So much of adulteration and dilution today.

It is “another Gospel”

— *Enemies of the “Cross” of Christ*
Phil 3:18,19

The materialistic Gospel
The prosperity Gospel — “*belly ... earthly*”
The health & wealth Gospel

That’s why —

Paul calls the Gospel as the
“*Message of the CROSS*” (1 Cor 1:18)

He said,

“*We preach Christ CRUCIFIED*” (v23)

He added,

“*nothing but Christ and Him CRUCIFIED*” (2:2)

What Christ spoke from the **Cross** covers
all the aspects of the Gospel —

I call it, “The Gospel from Golgotha”

The Gospel from Golgotha is —

1. A Message of FORGIVENESS

“*Father, **forgive** them, for they do not know
what they do*” (Lk 23:34)

- This is what Jesus wanted His disciples to preach:
“*Repentance and remission of sins ... to all nations*”
(Lk 24:47)
- God’s forgiveness is superlative —
— He forgives the sinner & then sins are taken care of!
We are “sinners,” so we “sin,” not vice versa.
Sinfulness — the root; Sins — the fruit
(cause) (effect)
- eg) The prodigal son forgiven before confession was complete!
- Jesus bore “all” our sins!
Past ... Present ... Future sins!
JUSTIFICATION = as if we never sinned!
“*Though ... sins ... scarlet ... snow; ...
red ... crimson ... wool*” (Isa 1:18)
What did God do with our sins?
4-dimensional love! (Eph 3:18,19) ... w ... l ... d ... h
— He removed our sins ... *East ... West* (Psa 103:12) — w
— He threw our sins ... *behind His back* (Isa 38:17b) — l
— He sank our sins ... *in the sea* (Mic 7:19) — d
— He removed our sins ... *as the clouds* (Isa 44:22) — h
Sins forgiven are sins forgotten!
Advocate x Adversary (1 Jn 2:1/Rev 12:10)
- Our responsibility— “Forgive others as Christ forgave us!”

2. A Message of ASSURANCE

“*Assuredly, I say to you,
Today you **will be** with Me in Paradise*” (Lk 23:43)

One of the thieves (left or right?) —

One was right! The other was left!

- Can I be sure of my salvation?"
Thousand times, yes!
eg) *The Lord added to the Church ... saved* (Acts 2:47)
(Church — No sinner inside; no saint outside!)
eg) *“We **know** we have passed from death to life”*
(1 Jn 3:14a)
Not hope so, or think so, but know so!
Joining Christ is as real as marriage.
Read: 1 Jn 5:10-13 *“... HAS ... HAVE ...”*
- Why do people then question the possibility of assurance?
Failure to understand Salvation in 3 tenses —
Salvation Past — Deliverance from the *Penalty* of sin
Salvation Present — Deliverance from the *Power* of Sin
Salvation Future — Deliverance from the *Presence* of Sin
i.e. Justification (a crisis experience);
Sanctification (an ongoing experience);
Glorification (a crisis experience)
- The Witnesses: 1 Jn 5:7
The Father (Jn 1:12)
The Word (The Bible says it; I believe it; that settles it)
The Spirit (Rom 8:16)
Don't look for voices/visions/dreams/etc.
FACT first — FAITH next — FEELINGS last

3. A Message for the FAMILY

“He said to His mother ... disciple ... son ... mother!”
(Jn 19:26,27)

This shows God's greatest concern for the families.
Family — God's basic unit in Creation
— Also in Salvation

- eg) • Noah and his household — Flood
(Righteous man)
- Rahab and her family — Destruction
(Debaucherous Woman)
- Zacchaeus and his house
- Philippian Jail Superintendent —
*“What must **I** do to be saved?”* (Acts 16:30)
*“You **and** your family!”* (v31)
- Jesus taught: *As you enter, say “Shalom!”* (Lk 10:5,6)
If the son of peace is there ...
Not if the kitchen is in the right direction!
(*Vasthu!*)
- No ancestral iniquity under the New Covenant —
Jer 31:29-31 *... fathers ate sour grapes ...*
children's teeth set on edge ...
- Each person individually responsible —
Jn 1:12 *... “children” of God, not grandchildren!*
Born in a Christian home or a Hindu home,
you must be born **again!**
- Parents' responsibility —
— More on fathers (Prov 1:8)
eg) Abraham (Gen 18:19)
Not properties/jewels/dowry

4. A Message of FELLOWSHIP

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
(Mt 27:46)

— The Central cry from the Cross

- *“Our sins have separated ... hidden His face ...”* (Isa 59:2)

In the same way, when all our sins came on Jesus, the Father, whose eyes are too pure to behold sin, hid His face.

Christ was forsaken so we can have unbroken and close fellowship with God!

■ When Christ's body was broken —

a) The middle wall of division broken down —

Eph 2:12-14 ... Jews vs. Non-Jews

No more casteism or regionalism.

Made from **one** blood; washed by **one** blood (Acts 17:26).

No longer strangers but fellow-citizens (Eph 2:19).

b) The veil in the Temple torn from top to bottom —

Don't restitch it!

— No more ritualism!

Heb 10:19-22 ... *Way into the Holiest open*

— No sacred places (eg. Mount of Transfiguration)

Mk 9:5 ... *three tabernacles*

— No mediator other than Jesus (1 Tim 2:5; Heb 8:6)

c) No more emotionalism

Whether or not you **feel** the Presence of God —

"Immanuel" (= God is with us.)

John Wesley: "The greatest of all is, God is with us"

- Salvation creates in us a deep longing for fellowship with God — WORD & PRAYER

Nothing becomes more important!

Martin Luther: "A dungeon with Christ is a Throne;
a throne without Christ is hell!"

5. A Message of SATISFACTION

"I thirst!" (Jn 19:28)

- Jesus was wounded for us so He may become an *"open fountain"* (Zech 13:1)

The Shepherd was struck but He didn't desert the sheep; He leads them to *"still waters!"* (Zech 13:7/Psa 23)

Not just water but a *spring within us* (Jn 4:14)

- Man tries substitutes —

a) Money —

Root of all evil ... many sorrows (1 Tim 6:9,10)

Rich man eats well; poor man sleeps well!

Pagans: *"What shall we eat?"* ...

"Seek first the Kingdom ..." (Mt 6:31-33)

b) Sex —

Especially youngsters

Movies/love affairs/pornography/internet

Don't waste your life.

Remember your Creator when you are young (Eccl 12:1)

c) Achievements/Job/—

Worshipping our work! (Eccl 2:4-6,10,11)

An Astronaut:

After landing on the moon, what more?

These are all *cisterns with cracks* (Jer 2:13)

The Holy Spirit & the Church (saints/believers)

calling you: *"Come to the waters!"* (Rev 22:17)

Earthly pleasures and treasures worthless

before the *Old Rugged Cross!*

The Cross is God's **plus** Sign!

6. A Message of FINISHED WORK

"It is finished!" (Jn 19:30)

All the demands of a holy God perfectly met & satisfied by Christ's sacrifice. Nothing to be added to it.

- Salvation is a free gift!

Eph 2:8-10 ... *not of yourselves* ...

On God's side: All of Grace

On our side: All by Faith

"The just shall live by faith!"

(Hab 2:4; Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38)

— Martin Luther's slogan

Not "do" but "done!"

- Not by works—

a) Baptism (infant or adult)

b) Church membership — No Church saves!

c) Charity

"All our righteousness are filthy rags!"

Christ's robes vs. Our rags (Isa 64:6)

eg) Pharisee vs. Publican (Lk 18)

- Galatian believers

"Fallen" from grace (Gal 5:4)

Christ to be "formed" in them again (4:19)

Law vs. Grace: Ishmael vs. Isaac

Not even an outer house for Ishmael

Sing: *Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,*

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

Was blind but now I see! — John Newton

Christianity vs. other Religions —

FOR works ✓ **BY** works ✗ (Eph 2:9,10)

Gift vs. Merit

7. A Message of SECURITY

"Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit"

(Lk 23:46)

- If you commit your life to Christ, you do not need to worry about tomorrow —

Christ the same yesterday, today and forever.

Christ is the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Christ is the Alpha & Omega, the Author & Finisher.

"Double" safety: Christ's hand

Father's hand Jn 10:28,29

Only 1 out of 12 lost!

- Paul: *"I know whom I have believed ... keep ... committed ... until that day"* (2 Tim 1:12)
- On the Cross,
Christ offered His body and now committed His spirit!

Sing: *"All to Jesus I surrender!"*

■ A call to commitment —

Come to God the Father:

He will FORGIVE you.

He will grant you ASSURANCE.

He will save your FAMILY.

You will enjoy FELLOWSHIP with Him.

He will SATISFY your longings.

You will experience the blessings of Christ's FINISHED

You will be SECURE for ever! WORK.

Today is the Day of Salvation!