

The Gospel

Gk.2098- a *good message*, that is, the *Gospel*.

- Thus “the good news” of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Along with looking at that day which changed the course of mankind’s destiny forever, we also need to look at the New Covenant “city of refuge”, the church, where, once we’ve entered, we can find safety from the world and its influence. But first, an O.T. example of what the church represents.

Num 35:26 But if the manslayer shall at any time go beyond the boundaries of his city of refuge to which he fled, 27 and the avenger of blood finds him outside the boundaries of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood.

- Outside the church lies destruction and judgement because that’s where evil lurks waiting to pounce on the weak. Once we’ve obtained refuge within, there will always exist the temptation to wander back out into the darkness that lies without. The good news of **this** city of refuge, known as the kingdom, the church, came into existence almost two millennia ago in the form of God’s holy reign on earth.

The Kingdom

Mar 1:14 Now after that John (*the immerser*) was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom (*Gk.932- royalty, that is, rule, or a realm: -reign*) of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is **at hand** (*Gk.1448- near*): repent ye, and believe the Gospel. (*Emp. Added*)

- Much of Old Testament prophesy had to do with God reconciling man back to Himself. And the prophecies in Daniel were so vivid in foretelling the events and times of the appearance of this sacred reign to the point where there would have been no excuse to miss them by those who studied them. But alas, many miss the meaning of the New Testament teaching on it today.

Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (*Israel*) and upon thy holy city (*Jerusalem*), to finish (*Heb.3607- to restrict, by act or word*)[*In this case the word is the Gospel, the act, the end of the sacrificial system.*] the transgression (*Heb.6588- a revolt [national, moral or religious]*), and to make an end (*Heb.2856- to close up; especially to seal*) of sins, and to make reconciliation (*Heb.3722- to cover*) for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up (*Heb.2856- :make an end*) the vision and prophecy, and to anoint (*Heb.4886- consecrate*) the Most Holy.

- Physical Israel, God’s anointed people of the Old Covenant through whom He would bring His Son into the world, had revolted against Him for the last time. So “when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son” (*Gal 4:4*) to fulfill His ultimate destiny for **all** of mankind. The time was set, via God’s providential incite, for Daniel’s vision to be revealed when God’s Son, the High Priest of the New Covenant, would enter the Most Holy (*Heb 7*), to set apart the faithful in reuniting His creation back to Himself.

2Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and

gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

- Such is the message of the great commission given by God through the Messiah, Jesus.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

- Jesus had to return to “the right hand of the Majesty on high” (*Heb 1:3*) once He made “reconciliation for the sins of the people” (*Heb 2:17*) as our Intercessor.

Rom 8:33 Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us.

- He left the job of evangelizing the world up to each subsequent generation of faithful saints until He returns to claim His own. Even death had no power over Him. He told Peter concerning his statement...

Mat 16:18 ... upon this rock (*the proclamation that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the Living God*) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- Hades, the realm of departed souls, could not prevent Jesus from resurrecting in order to build His church. Later, after being let go by the rulers and elders of the Jews, Peter and John reported what had happened to them to their company. In response they prayed in thanksgiving to God...

Act 4:27 For of a truth against Thy holy child **Jesus, Whom Thou hast anointed**, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever Thy hand and Thy counsel **determined before** to be done. (*Emp. Added*)

- So no power on earth will be able to keep Him from returning, after having ascended to Heaven, to retrieve the faithful back to God.

Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and **foreknowledge** of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it. (*Emp. Added*)

- Which was another prophesy of Daniel that came true concerning Christ's crucifixion.

Dan 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off (*crucified*), but not for Himself: and the people (*Rome*) of the prince (*Titus*) that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (*70 A.D.*); and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood (*the military might of Rome-Isa 8:7*), and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

- In 70 A.D. Rome leveled Jerusalem according to Jesus' prophesy in Mat 24. Concerning the flood as a representation of an invading army...

Isa 8:7 Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks: 8 And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel.

- Within this time frame when the Caesars ruled, the kingdom came. In the statue of Nebuchadnezzar's dream Daniel revealed to him that there would come a future kingdom unlike all others.

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings (*Caesars from 27 B.C. [Augustus]-96 A.D. [Domitian]*) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall **never be destroyed**: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand **for ever**. (*Emp. Added*)

Heb 12:28 Wherefore we **receiving** (*present, active, indicative*) **a kingdom** which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire. (*Emp. Added*)

- Even today, when people are obedient to the Gospel they "receive" the kingdom. Not only did the kingdom come, according to prophesy, it ended the era of the sacrificial system.

Dan 9:27 And He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (*complete period of time*): and in the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease (*sacrificial system ended*), and for the overspreading of abominations He shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- Because of the "overspreading" (*Heb 3761-an edge or extremity*) of Israel's sins, Rome came as God's pawn to bring a full end to the commonwealth of Israel under the law of Moses. Physical Israel survived the Babylonian captivity but only spiritual Israel the Roman occupation, destruction and persecution.

Heb 8:13 In that He saith, A new *covenant*, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. (*...and it did so in 70 A.D.*)

- What did this New Covenant do?

Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross;

The Disciples Prayer

Luk 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. 2 And He said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, **as** in heaven, **so** in earth. 3 Give us day by day

our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. (*Emp. Added*)

- When Jesus taught His disciples this “model” prayer He was helping them better understand the purpose of the kingdom. If they were to pray that it would soon come (*and that was nearly two thousand years ago*), as He had been preaching that it was very near, He was also teaching the significance of being a citizen of it. (*This is a prayer uttered in the denominational world because they believe the kingdom hasn’t come yet.*) Since in Heaven, according to the will of God, no **un**righteousness exists the same was to be found on earth. But how? How could such purity exist where evil temptations abound? Through the establishment of God’s **perfect** kingdom on earth, made up of **imperfect** human beings known as the church.

1Pe 2:9 But you are a **chosen race**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (*Emp. Added*)

- The people of God under the Old Covenant, Israel, were automatically born into that relationship. Gentiles back then weren’t. Under the New Covenant relationship “there is neither Jew nor Greek (*Gentile*), there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one **in** Christ Jesus” (*Gal 3:28*). That “oneness” is obtained today by a qualification process instituted by God through Christ.

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, Who hath made us meet (*Gk.2427- to enable, that is, qualify*) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us **from** the power of darkness, and hath **translated** (*Gk.3179- to transfer, that is, carry away, exchange*) us **into** the kingdom of His dear Son: (*Emp. Added*)

- In order to have a covenant relationship with God under the Old Testament one had to be born into physical Israel. Now, in order to have that covenant relationship with the Father, one must be “reborn” in order to enter **spiritual** Israel.

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is *that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered (*speaking to Nicodemus*), "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- This is a “rebirth” in obedience to what the Spirit inspired word dictates (*Mk 16:16*).

Mar 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Tit 3:4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration (*Gk.3824- [spiritual] rebirth [i.e., immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins]*) and renewal of the Holy Spirit (*We receive a “rebuilding” to “walk in newness of life” once “the body of sin” is “destroyed”-Rom 6:4, 6*), 6 whom He

poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- Through the Holy Spirit inspired words of the Bible we have a blueprint to aid us in the rebuilding process. Without which we are unfit to enter the kingdom.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

- Not one person who ever walked the face of the earth initially was fit to enter into Heaven. Adam and Eve were but lost that “fit-ness” when they partook of the forbidden fruit. Our “qualification” to receive the down payment or “guarantee of our inheritance” (*Eph 1:14*) came through the good news of Jesus’ obedience to the Father. Only when we have emulated His death, burial and resurrection, through being buried with Him in baptism, can we receive that down payment on our eternal home with God. Our “translation” into the kingdom removes us from a destiny of suffering in a godless Hell and exchanges that destiny for the eternal peace and tranquility in Heaven.

Act 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat (*food*) with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church** (*Gk.1577- a calling out*) daily such as should be saved. (*Emp. Added*)

- We cannot and do not **join** Christ’s church. We are added to the church, the kingdom, by God via His promise to do so once we’ve obeyed His will, having been “called out” from the world, to put Jesus on in baptism.

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify (*Gk.37- to make holy, that is, purify or consecrate*) and cleanse her (*the church*) with the washing of water by the word, 27 That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- Members of the church have been purified according to the process only found in the truth established by God in the Bible. That’s the gospel that we are not to be ashamed of (*Rom 1:16*) since it is the only way in which God has set by which we can be saved.

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through **sanctification** (*Gk.38- purification*) **of the Spirit** and **belief of the truth**: 14 Whereunto He called (*Gk.2564- to “call”: -bid [Thayer: to participate in it]*) you **by our gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Emp. Added*)

- God chose us, purified us, via our faith and obedience to His will. All according to the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of His dear Son. And it was all set in motion before He created the “the heaven and the earth” (*Gen 1:1*).

Joh 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me **before the foundation of the world**. (*Emp. Added*)

- There are those who claim that God was blindsided by the disobedience of Adam and Eve and at that point had to come up with the ultimate plan to save mankind. Others allege that He was also blindsided by the Jews when they rejected Jesus as the Messiah. So, as they so **falsely** teach, He set up the church as an **interim** to serve as a **temporary** system until He would send Jesus a second time to rule in an earthly kingdom as an earthly king. But they overlook the phrase “before the foundation of the world”. Another time this phrase is used...

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* **in Christ**: 4 According as He hath chosen us **in Him** (*we must be “in Christ” to be part of the chosen*) **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: (*Emp. Added*)

- If God loved Jesus “before the foundation of the world” (*Jn 17:24*) and the church was chosen “**in Him before** the foundation of the world” then it goes to show that their doctrines concerning when the faithful were chosen isn’t according to truth. Therefore the kingdom that has lasted, and will last, longer than any kingdom run by man on earth, will exist on into eternity because it has “Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone” (*Eph 2:20*). (*Emp. Added*)

Eph 3:21 Unto Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

- What could be better news than knowing you can be a part of the everlasting kingdom? But, in order for God to add you to the church, to make you a citizen of the kingdom, you have to be “in Christ” for that to happen, thus becoming part of the chosen. We are not chosen individually, we are chosen when we become part of the bride of Christ, the church. How do we get “in Him”?

#1. You’ve heard?

Romans 10:14 ...“how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**”(*Emp. Added*)

#2. Do you believe?

Heb 11:6 ...“for he that commeth to God **must believe that He is...**” (*Emp. Added*)

#3. Have you repented?

Act 3:19 ...“**Repent** ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” (*Emp. Added*)

#4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God?

Joh 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Act 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling (*Gk.1941- to entitle: -surname [Thayer: “I call upon (on my behalf) the name of the Lord, i.e. to invoke, adore, worship, the Lord, i.e. Christ] on the Name of the Lord.*)

#6. If you’ve done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 “...we also should walk in newness of life.”

#7. Are you growing?

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

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