

SOWING AND REAPING

..... biblical evangelism

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1Corinthians **15:1** Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

what is the gospel?

There are three major parts to the gospel of Christ:

- 1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture**
- 2. Christ was buried**
- 3. Christ rose again according to the Scripture**

1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture

1Co 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

a. Notice who died: It was Christ. Jesus is the Christ promised in the Old Testament.

b. Notice why Christ died: *for our sins*.

(1) All men are lost sinners (Rom. 3:23).

Ro 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

(a) We are sinners by nature (Romans 5:12).

Ro 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture

(b) We are sinners because we have broken God's laws; this is the definition of sin (1John 3:4).

1John 3:4 ¶ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

(c) We are sinners because we have turned from God to our own way (Isaiah 53:6).

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

(d) We are sinners because we have come short of God's holy standard and requirement (Romans 3:23) (Isaiah 64:6) (Rom. 3:10, 12).

Isa 64:6 ¶ But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture

(e) Because we are sinners, we are condemned and without hope. Every sin will be Punished, and the punishment is death. There is both physical death and eternal death in the lake of fire.

Jas 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Re 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture

(f) To believe the gospel is to believe that you are a sinner like the Bible says. No one can be saved apart from this. If the person still thinks of himself as basically a good person, he cannot be saved.

(g) Therefore, a major goal in soul winning is to help people see that they are lost sinners. We have to take the time to explain what sin is according to God's definition. People brought up in other religions will often admit that they are sinners, but typically they do not mean that they are truly evil and deserving of God's judgment.

1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture

(2) The good news of the gospel is that Christ died for our sins, all of our sins. He paid the full price that God's laws demands. He died in our place. He took our punishment in our place. Salvation is an exchange. When we believe on Christ, He takes our sin and we take His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21).

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

c. Notice that He died **according to the Scriptures**. This refers to the amazing prophecies that described Christ's death in great detail.

Following are just a few of these prophecies from Psalm 22:

- *The Scripture prophesied that Jesus would die by crucifixion (Psa. 22:14-16; Jn. 19:16-18).*

Ps 22:14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

- *The Scripture prophesied that the soldiers would gamble for Jesus' robe at the foot of the cross (Psalm 22:18). The cruel soldiers did this while Jesus was suffering (Mat. 27:35).*

Ps 22:18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

- *The Scripture prophesied the words that Jesus spoke from the cross (Psa. 22:1; Mat. 27:46).*

Ps 22:1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

- *The Scripture prophesied that Jesus would thirst (Psa. 22:15; Jn. 19:28).*

Ps 22:15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

- *The Scripture prophesied that the people would mock Him (Psa. 22:6-8; Mat. 27:39, 41-43).*

*Ps 22:6 But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.
7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,
8 He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.*

- *The Scripture prophesied that the people would sit and stare at Him (Psa. 22:17; Mat. 27:36).*

Ps 22:17 I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.

2. Christ was buried

1Co 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

- a. His burial proved that He really died.
- b. He was in the grave for three days and nights (Mat. 12:40).

Mt 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- c. His burial fulfilled prophecy. It was “*according to the Scriptures.*” The Bible prophesied that Jesus would be buried in the tomb of a rich man (Isaiah 53:9).

Isa 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

This prophecy, written about 710 years before Jesus was born, was fulfilled when Jesus was taken down off the cross by a wealthy disciple and buried in that disciple’s own tomb (Mat. 27:57-60).

3. Christ rose again according to the Scripture

1Co 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

a. His resurrection was prophesied in Psalm 16:10. This was written about 1,000 years before Jesus' birth.

Ps 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

b. His resurrection proved that He is the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).

Ro 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

c. The emphasis of the gospel is that Christ is alive. We preach a living Christ, not a dead one. (Heb. 7:25).

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

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