

Good News for the Soul

Proverbs 25:25

The wise man here relates the refreshing nature of good news that is brought from afar. We may relate this spiritually to the gospel, which has come from far, from heaven, from the very throne of God, all the way to sin-cursed men, women, boys, and girls who live in darkness and depravity. We think oftentimes of other places upon the earth as far away. You used to hear the expression often used by preachers and missionaries, “The deep, dark reaches of Africa,” referring to Africa as a land that was both far away and without the gospel to a great extent. It is still to this day both a land that is far away and that is without the gospel. There are souls even now in that land, as there are in this very land and in this very community in which we live, crying out in thirst for something that this world and all its religion, all its philosophy, all its psychology, and all its wisdom cannot give, and that is living water that will quench a person’s soul and give that person spiritual life toward God and everlasting life with God.

Rom. 10:13-15 The gospel is good news, and gospel ministers carry that news as ambassadors with a divine commission. **II Cor. 5:17-20** There is no greater message than the gospel. The gospel message is more needed today than ever before, because many other messages and many false gospels are being proclaimed. These all promise to quench the thirsting souls of men, women, boys, and girls, but they are like clouds that promise water but dispense no showers of rain, like wells without water that are dried up and disappoint those who have come seeking refreshment and the live-giving essence. **II Cor. 11:13-15 Gal. 1:8,9** The only remedy against the false gospel of Satan and of men is the true gospel of Jesus Christ. The only remedy for a parched and weary soul is the cold, refreshing water that comes from the true well and spring of life, which is Jesus Christ.

No person can live in the natural sense without water. Nothing is more refreshing to a thirsty person than cold water. God has provided for the natural need of man in giving fountains and streams of fresh water all over the earth. God is also the One who has provided for the spiritual need of man in giving the fountain of living water and the well of life in His Son Jesus

Christ. No person can have spiritual life unless that person partakes of the spiritual fountain and well that is Jesus Christ. **John 4:5-14; 7:37-39** Only Jesus can impart spiritual life to the soul of any person. **John 3:1-8** You do not have spiritual life the way you came into this world. Otherwise, Jesus would not have said, “*Ye must be born again.*” You do not obtain spiritual life any other way than by the power of Jesus Christ. **John 1:12,13** You do not obtain spiritual life through baptism. You do not obtain spiritual life through church membership. You do not obtain spiritual life through religious works or so-called “acts of Christian charity”. You only obtain spiritual life by faith in Jesus Christ who gives to every born-again believer the Holy Spirit to dwell in that man, woman, boy, or girl whom He has saved. There’s no need of being argumentative or quarrelsome – either you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ and you have been born of the Spirit of God and you have the Spirit of God dwelling in you, or you are dead in your own trespasses and sins and on the road to hell. **John 5:21** If you haven’t been made alive by Jesus Christ, then you are not alive in the spiritual sense. You are dead toward God and you must be born again. No one denies or questions the need of water in order to live in the natural sense. You ought not to question God either, friend, when He tells you that you can only have spiritual and eternal life in and through faith in His Son Jesus Christ as the One who died on the cross for your sins, was buried, and rose again.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is “*good news from a far country.*” The gospel did not originate with man. Human intellect and reasoning did not dream up or invent the gospel of Jesus Christ. No, beloved, this “*good news*” of salvation for the sin-ruined souls of all kinds of people on the earth came “*from a far country,*” from a country that no human being could ever reach by human power or effort. The gospel message of salvation by the cross and the blood of Jesus Christ is a message that came from God. **John 3:16 Rom. 1:1-4,16** We do not deny that many religions have been invented by men. In fact, we do know that many religions are the invention of demons, and many people are deceived by them. Yet, we do also know that the gospel of Jesus Christ is a God-sent message, a message of good news and heavenly blessings unto those who hear and believe and obey.

Luke 2:8-14 This message which came from the throne of God unto the earth is not a message of death or destruction. No, beloved, that message was already communicated. The curse of sin has sounded loud and long ever since the first-days of human existence. When man sinned, when humanity denied its Creator and only rightful Lawgiver, when man rebelled against his God, then was the sentence of death felt: and it has been felt ever since. All the violence; all the sorrow; all of the willfulness, pride, selfishness, self-centeredness, and ungodliness that has been committed down through the course of human history – even in the name of religion – has been nothing but a manifestation of that death that has been in man from the very beginning, which is spiritual death and estrangement from God. When you are cutoff from the only source of good and righteousness in the universe, which is God, then you will be no good and you will do that which is not good. Sin separates sinners from God. Someone (trying to excuse himself or herself) will say, “We all sin.” That’s why we’re all dead to God and doomed to hell apart from being born again in Jesus Christ. The message of condemnation has already been heard. It was heard in the beginning by our first parents when they sinned and broke ties with God and their spirits died. It was heard at Mount Sinai, when God gave the law and the Ten Commandments, which no descendant of Adam has kept or has desired to keep. God’s law has condemned you from the day that you were born, because you came forth from the womb as a lawbreaker. Your nature manifested itself to be a sinful nature, contrary to God. No one had to teach you how to lie. You were born with that knowledge. You went astray from God without any provocation because you were a sinner by birth. The purpose of the law is to identify lawbreakers, and you have been identified as a lawbreaker against the best and most worthy Lawgiver, God Himself. **Ps. 58:3 Isa. 53:6** The law has already concluded all people in unbelief before God, and thereby unrighteous in God’s sight; and all people continue to manifest their own sinfulness by breaking God’s law to this day. But the gospel message, which has come from the throne of God, is not a condemning message. No, the message of the gospel that came in the Person of Jesus Christ is the only message that can deliver you out from under the condemnation of your own sins. This divine ambassadorial message that is being carried to humanity from God’s very

throne is one that declares terms of peace between God and sinners. This message says that God has reconciled the world to Himself through Jesus' blood that was shed at the cross, and that every person who believes on Jesus shall be reconciled to God. This message is one of good will. This is a peace-making message, because God sent His Son to make peace at the cross. **Col. 1:19-23** This gospel, and only this gospel, reveals to you God's terms of peace, and those terms are that Jesus became the substitute for sinners and bore their condemnation at the cross. God's terms of peace are that in Jesus Christ every sin of the believing soul is washed away. God's terms of peace are that in Jesus Christ every believer is brought into fellowship with God and made a son or a daughter of God. God's terms of peace are the only terms of peace, and those who reject His gospel remain at enmity with God.

I do not know, but perhaps some of you listening to these words are thirsting at this moment. If you are thirsting for entertainment, or for something that will tickle and gratify your intellect, you will have to go somewhere else. This fountain does not hold such water as you are seeking. Turn again to the fountains of this world, for you are a lover of this world and that is all you will ever know, until you lose your love of sin, of self, and of the world, and you become a lover of Jesus Christ, who loved His own whom He died to save from before the foundation of the world. For those of you who are thirsty for the forgiveness of all your sins; for the freedom from sin and Satan and self; for deliverance from always serving and committing sin; for fellowship with God; for the knowledge of God as God and Savior and Lord, then there is only one source that will quench your thirst, and that is Jesus Christ. He only can give the cold, refreshing waters of the gospel to you. I cannot give them to you. If I could, I would. I would give them to you now. I am only the ambassador, and I only carry the message. This message comes from a far country, and the One who rules and reigns as Lord and King of that country is the One from whom you must receive the gift of salvation and eternal life. **John 14:6** You must hear His Words in order to live. **John 5:24**

It may be that your soul is now parched with sin. Sin has worn you out and left you for dead. This is all sin will ever do. **John 4:15-26** Sin had ruined the life of the Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at Jacob's well. Sin had left her thirsting and

parched and without God. Listen to me very carefully, salvation is not you being happy with your earthly life. Salvation is not you being satisfied with your job and your family. Salvation is not you being more outstanding in your religion than your neighbors. Many people who have sought after these things will be in hell for all eternity. This woman had the scars of sin upon her life, divorce, remarriage, empty religion, and self-reliance rather than faith in God. Yet, the sin that had left these scars was within her. That is where sin is, in you. That is why no matter what you do to try and satisfy your soul and be right with God you will fail because sin will remain in you. The only One who can save you from your sins is Jesus Christ. This Jesus now declares the good news that He will give you living water and life toward God if you come to Him through faith alone. He is the only One who can give you eternal life. He is the One whom the good news from heaven points you to for the salvation of your soul. He is the good news, and He is the salvation of the soul of every person who trusts in Him.

Rom. 5:8-12,18-21,1 The only way to have peace with God is by believing on Jesus Christ, that He died for your sins, was buried, and rose again with eternal life for all who trust in Him as their own personal Savior. The One who made you is the only One who can save you. The sentence of eternal death stands over you if you are outside of Jesus Christ, and the judgment is already declared – “CONDEMNED ALREADY IN UNBELIEF.” The only way to have eternal life is to be made righteous before God through faith in Jesus Christ. He provides righteousness to those who come to God by Him. The good news is that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. The good news is that God’s grace and love were put on open display at the cross of Calvary. The good news is that God saves sinners through Jesus Christ. Do not assume that you are saved. Be saved today, by trusting in Jesus. Believe this *“good news from a far country,”* even from heaven itself and from God’s very throne. Drink of Christ, and your soul shall thirst no more. **Rev. 21:6-8; 22:16,17** Amen.