

# GETTING THE GOSPEL RIGHT

## *“And the Word Was God”*

Scripture Reading: JOHN 1:1-5

- ) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDES 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 8**. Today we continue in our sermon series “*GETTING THE GOSPEL RIGHT*.” And I have titled today’s message “*And the Word Was God*” (1:1).
- ) If you want to go to heaven, if you want eternal life, if you want to be counted as one of the “*few*” and not the “*many*,” if you don’t want to hear Jesus tell you “*I never knew you. Depart from Me*” then you must hear, understand, believe, and trust the gospel. We must get the gospel right. What is the gospel?
- ) **SLIDE 9**. Last week we began that quest to learn the gospel facts. 1 COR 15:1-3 tells us that a person is saved because Christ died for their sins. From that, we learned these two foundational facts.
- ) **SLIDE 10**. The gospel always proclaims the **SINFULNESS** of all mankind. The Bible clearly teaches that every human being has a sin problem (ROM 3:23), and the consequences of that sin is death (ROM 6:23). And that is what a person is saved from—our sins. And all have sinned.
- ) **SLIDE 11**. The gospel always proclaims the **HELPLESSNESS** of all mankind. There is absolutely nothing any human being can do on their own to fix or contribute to the cure to their sin problem (GAL 2:16 & ROM 3:20). Any or all our good works, our efforts, our deeds, or our merit cannot fix our sin problem.
- ) Well. if we can’t fix this sin problem on our own, 1) can it be fixed, and 2) who or what can fix it for us?

- ) Today I will present this Biblical truth about the only solution to mankind's sin problem—the solution to how we will avoid our death sentence. And the solution is not a what. It's a Who. And His name is Jesus Christ.
- ) Two week ago I said the gospel is about who Jesus is, what Jesus said, and what Jesus accomplished. Today we'll cover who Jesus is and what Jesus said.
- ) Over the past 2000 years many people have said many things about this man Jesus of Nazareth—He was a good teacher; He gave great speeches; He was a prophet; He was kind and gentle and loving; He performed many miracles, etc.
- ) And no matter how much some or all of that may be true, there is only one view that counts—and it's not what the people say—it's what the Word of God says about Him. So, what does the Bible say about Jesus of Nazareth?
- ) **SLIDE 12.** The OT prophesied (over 300x) of a Messiah. A Messiah who would bring good news and deliver His people. One such prophecy can be found in ISAIAH 61:1.
- ) So, who are the afflicted, the brokenhearted, the captives and the prisoners? It was thought that this Messiah would deliver His people from an oppressive Roman rule. The Jews would finally be set free from their evil masters.
- ) **SLIDE 13.** 1 COR 15:1-3. But deliverance would not be from an oppressive Roman rule. No. Deliverance would be from a far more severe problem. Deliverance would be from a sin problem that carries a death sentence. Our sin has afflicted us and made us captives and prisoners. But, according to the Scriptures, the Christ will free His people from this bondage.
- ) **SLIDE 14.** After Jesus' resurrection, two men are walking on the road to Emmaus. Jesus catches up with them and says this. LUKE 24:25-27. Folks, I assure you, that was the best Bible study anyone could have ever attended.

- ) Jesus would be the fulfillment of OT Scriptures of this Deliverer that Isaiah speaks of who would set the captives free.
- ) **SLIDE 15.** MATTHEW 16:15-17. The great confession.
- ) The term “*Christ*” is the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word “*Messiah*.” Jesus is the Christ. He is the chosen One. He is the anointed One. He is the fulfillment of OT Scriptures concerning the One who will save and deliver His people.
- ) Jesus is not just another handsome face walking around Judea. Peter got it right. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is God. And to be saved, we also must believe that Jesus is God.
- ) **SLIDE 16.** JOHN 8:23-24. Jesus is saying that unless the people (then and now) believe that He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the living God, they will die in their sins. And our sins is what Jesus came to deliver us from.
- ) **SLIDE 17.** JOHN 1:1-2. Jesus is known as the Word. And here the apostle John attests to the fact that Jesus (the Word) was God. He is God. He never ceased being God. And He always will be God.
- ) **SLIDE 18.** MATT 1:22-23. Christmas. This child is God.
- ) **SLIDE 19.** The gospel always proclaims that Jesus of Nazareth is God **INCARNATE** (in the flesh). We cannot be saved from our sins if we believe that Jesus was just a good teacher, or He just gave great speeches, or He was just a prophet, or He was just kind and gentle and loving. This is a gospel truth. Jesus of Nazareth is God.
- ) But ... do we have the right Jesus? Jesus is not who we want Him to be. The Mormons have the wrong Jesus. The JWs have the wrong Jesus.
- ) Jesus is not a Burger King where we can have Him our way and mold Him into what we want Him to be. Jesus is who He says He is—the Son of God.

- ) Let's make sure we know and understand the Biblical Jesus and not some deviation of that truth.
- ) **SLIDE 20.** In March of 2020, Ligonier ministries took a poll asking people claiming to be evangelical Christians some Biblical questions. This question was asked: "*Is Jesus God?*" 72% either somewhat agreed to strongly disagreed. Only 28% were certain that Jesus is God.
- ) "*If you don't believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*" Let me present to you the "*many*" and the "*few*."
- ) **SLIDE 21.** Let's move on to the next gospel truth. JOHN 14:6. These words speak an incredible truth. Jesus clearly teaches that He and He alone is the only way to the Father.
- ) **SLIDE 22.** The gospel always proclaims that Jesus of Nazareth is the **ONLY** way unto salvation. We cannot be saved if we believe that Jesus is one of many ways back to the Father. Jesus is that narrow gate.
- ) **SLIDE 23.** JOHN 10:7-9. Attempting to enter heaven through any other door, any other gate, any other way, any other religious system other than Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone, will lead to eternal damnation.
- ) **SLIDE 24.** Same poll, same people. This statement was given: "*God Accepts the Worship of All Religions?*" It's the same as saying that Jesus is not the only way to the Father.
- ) **SLIDE 25.** Folks, eternity is not based on the Oprah Winfrey school of theology where all paths lead to God. They don't. And if you believe they do, then you are one of the "*many*." According to Oprah, being loving, and kindness, and generosity is all that is required. 5.23 million subscribers.
- ) Believing that all paths lead to God is called universalism. Everyone makes it into heaven as long as they are good and sincere about their belief system. To the universalist, knowing and believing the gospel is not an issue.

- ) Satan loves to convince everyone of that lie. And the “*many*” believe that lie. BGCC, the truth matters. And we better get it right. Our eternity depends on it.
- ) **SLIDE 26**. Review. If a person enters into eternity deliberately believing something contrary to these gospel facts, they will be numbered with the “*many*” and cast into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Forever.
- ) Mike, you make the gospel sound so narrow. Yes I do. And so did Jesus.
- ) Next week, we will cover what our Messiah, our Christ, our Deliverer, our Savior Jesus of Nazareth, accomplished for us.

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