

The Gospel, In Seven Minutes

Jesus preached the gospel, the good news of the Kingdom of God to come here on earth:

“Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God”

(Mark 1:14)

Jesus will return,

“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

(Isaiah 2:4)

Jesus also preached the good news that we can be saved: saved from perishing. We can have eternal life instead:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

(John 3:16)

We have all sinned. Our sins separate us from God and earn the death penalty:

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”

(Romans 6:23)

Jesus made His death and blood **available**: available to pay for and cover our sins. That is the work He finished on the cross *so that He might – now, today – redeem us*:

“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

(Titus 2:14)

Without the redemption Jesus made available on the cross we would all be hopelessly doomed to perish in death as the penalty for our sin.

Thank You, Jesus!

We can have that coverage, that redemption, by *believing*. Believing goes beyond faith or trust: believers are those who – like Abraham – act on their faith and obey God. Otherwise, their faith is dead. Jesus is:

“the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”

(Hebrews 5:9)

What are we told to do? Repent: turn from sin, seek God and do His will:

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent”

(Acts 17:30)

For obedience, we enter His promised mercy and are redeemed from our past sins:

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

(Proverbs 28:13)

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”

(Acts 3:19, NKJV).

We enter “the presence of the Lord” by the gift of the holy spirit, given “to them that obey Him”:

“And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.”

(Acts 5:32)

And while we abide in Him in repentance, following the holy spirit, we remain in justification. We are in His goodness or grace—not under condemnation:

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

(Romans 8:1)

And while we abide in Him in repentance, following the holy spirit, Jesus – through the holy spirit – guides us out of slavery to sin and into righteousness, making us ready for the gift of eternal life:

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

(Jesus, in Revelation 3:19)

Jesus’ work is not finished: creation of sons and daughters for the Father’s eternal family is in process, right now, through Jesus. He is the potter, we are the clay. But He cannot work with us unless we are workable—repentant.

And while we abide in Him in repentance, following the holy spirit, Jesus advocates for us with the Father, covering – present tense – any new sins by His blood:

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”

(1 John 2:1)

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
(1 John 1:7)

And while we abide in Him in repentance, following the holy spirit, we have “the hope of salvation”: the promised gift of eternal life, to be received at Jesus’ “revelation” —His return:

“But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ”

(Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:8,9)

“And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life”

(1 John 2:25)

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

(1 Peter 1:13)

Those who receive eternal life in that resurrection do not go to heaven for an eternal sky-vacation. They will be with Jesus, teaching and ruling in the Kingdom of God here on earth:

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

(Revelation 20:6)

After the 1000 years the rest of the dead will be resurrected for judgment:

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished . . .”

(Revelation 20:5)

After that final judgment all who have received eternal life will inherit a new, re-created earth. God will come and live with them:

“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”

(Matthew 5:5)

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away . . .

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their

God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

(Revelation 21:1,3,4)

They will not just exist forever. They will **live** forever: “in the presence of the Lord,” knowing and being known by God, loving and being loved by God:

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

(John 17:3)

But the rest – outside of repentance – will remain outside His promised mercy. Without redemption, they will pay their own death penalty. After resurrection for judgment they will perish in their “second death” (Revelation 2:11; 20:6; 20:14 and 21:8), having no more hope of life or resurrection. Jesus warned:

“except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

(Luke 13:5)

Salvation is often presented as “saving your ‘immortal soul’ from eternity in hell.” That’s a false paradigm, rooted in pagan Greek doctrines of immortal soul and hell.

Salvation is not about “**where** you’ll spend eternity” . . . You won’t even **have** an eternity unless you receive eternal life from God!

“Hell” appears in the Bible because hell-believing translators put it there, paving over the meanings of three different Greek words (New Testament) that have nothing to do with a place of eternal, fiery torment.