

## Search the Scriptures

for *Absolute Truth*

**Question:** What is the true Gospel?

**Biblical Answer:** "...the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation..." (Eph. 1:13).

**Comments:** The term "Gospel" literally means "good message." Surely, all that pertains to God is good, in that He is "just and right" (Deut. 32:4). However, the Gospel is not "good" purely in the sense that it is that message *from* God (Lk. 4:18), or *about* Him and His kingdom (Mk. 1:14). Actually, the word "good" (*eu*) in Gospel can describe the eternally blessed state of the child of God ("**well** [*eu*] *with thee*," Eph. 6:3) or the fruits of his new nature (Mt. 25:23; Mk. 14:7). Thus, the word Gospel, interpreted, refers to that message which declares the wonderful salvation plan of God. However, since God's redemptive plan is solely for His chosen people (2 Tim. 2:10), and the Gospel also includes the plan of judgment for the wicked (Rom. 2:16), the message can *only* be *good* for those in whom the goodness of the message is fulfilled and actualized. This is the reason behind the rejection of the Gospel by the unsaved, either in part or whole (2 Cor. 4:3; Heb. 4:2): it is actually a "*savour of death unto death*" (2 Cor. 2:16) unto them. Only the regenerate soul will rejoice at the supreme goodness of that which the message puts forth – the salvation he has been freely given, and judgment he has escaped. Thus sinful men, never having experienced the eternal goodness of God, have always taken His Gospel and perverted it, turning it into that which sounds and smells *good* to *themselves* (Gal. 1:6-9; Jude 1:4).

In the physical realm, the completed original texts of the Scriptures are surely the true Gospel (Gal. 3:8). By comparison, man's teachings, when viewed over time, are always spotted with error, deliberate or no. No man, no ministry can ever be esteemed as bringing *the* true Gospel – one intrusion of a "small" error will nullify this impossible view (Gal. 5:9). The heavenly voice of The Shepherd calling His elect child into His spiritual kingdom (Jn. 10:3; Col. 1:13), the voice of God which instructs the soul perfectly unto regeneration, like the voice which the dead in the graves will hear on the last day (Jn. 6:45; Eph. 4:21; Jn. 5:28), is the true Gospel of the spiritual realm, The Truth (Jn. 14:6), *forever* "settled in heaven" (Ps. 119:89).

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