

# “The Gospel’s Goal”—Part 1

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

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## ***Do you truly KNOW and UNDERSTAND who you are?***

- **GALATIANS 1:1-2 (ESV)**

*Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—<sup>2</sup> and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia...*

### **1. If you are in Christ, you know you are a NEW CREATION.**

- **2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup>*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

✚ **Have you ever noticed that Paul NEVER addresses himself as Saul.**

### **2. If you are in Christ, you understand the COST to FREE you from SIN.**

- **1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup>*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

### **3. If you are in Christ, you comprehend you have NOTHING to BOAST about.**

- **PHILIPPIANS 3:3-11 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>*For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—<sup>4</sup> though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—<sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

### **4. If you are in Christ, all PRAISE, GLORY and HONOR belong to God in Christ Jesus.**

- **1 PETER 1:3-9 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

***We find in this letter that it is the WORK of Christ that UNITES and SUSTAINS us.***

- **GALATIANS 1:3-5 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

- **EPHESIANS 4:1-6 (ESV)**

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,<sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism,<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

- **ROMANS 7:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> *Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.*

- **1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-9 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> *I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,<sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## ***In view of all that we know and understand in regards to the work of Christ and our IDENTITY and PURPOSE revealed in Him:***

- **GALATIANS 1:6-9 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—<sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.<sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

### **1. How is it that we or anybody would desert the God who CALLED us and SAVED us by His GRACE?**

✚ Can you fathom this?

✚ Does it astonish you that in view of the grace and the mercy of God in Christ Jesus that any “Believer” would desert Christ?

- **GALATIANS 2:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

✚ It is impossible for a true Believer to fall away or leave the grace of Christ.

- **HEBREWS 6:4-8 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> *For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,<sup>5</sup> and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,<sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.<sup>7</sup> For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.<sup>8</sup> But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.*

- **ROMANS 8:38-39 (ESV)**

<sup>38</sup> *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,<sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- **JOHN 10:27-30 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.<sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.”*

✚ If it were possible we would be doing nothing but trampling the grace of God.

- **HEBREWS 10:23-31 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.* <sup>24</sup> *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

<sup>26</sup> *For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.* <sup>28</sup> *Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.* <sup>29</sup> *How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?* <sup>30</sup> *For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."* <sup>31</sup> *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

## 2. How is it that we or anybody who have REPENTED would turn or REPENT to another gospel?

- **EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

✚ If it is by the grace of God alone that we are saved and not our own will or own ability, then we cannot turn from that grace to any other place or any other thing.

✚ For when we have heard and have been broken by and changed by the Gospel of Christ, how could anyone turn from that Gospel, lest we not be born again.

- **ACTS 2:36-41 (ESV)**

<sup>36</sup> *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."* <sup>37</sup> *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"* <sup>38</sup> *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* <sup>39</sup> *For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."* <sup>40</sup> *And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."* <sup>41</sup> *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

## 3. There is no other GOSPEL!

- **GOSPEL (WEBSTER'S DICT., 1828 ed.)**

*The history of the birth, life, actions, death, resurrection, ascension and doctrines of Jesus Christ; or a revelation of the grace of God to fallen man through a mediator, including the character, actions, and doctrines of Christ, with the whole scheme of salvation, as revealed by Christ and his apostles.*

- **EUANG—pronounced yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on (THAYER'S GREEK DICT.)**

*The glad tidings of the kingdom of God soon to be set up, and subsequently also of Jesus the Messiah, the founder of this kingdom. After the death of Christ, the term comprises also the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ as having suffered death on the cross to procure eternal salvation for the men in the kingdom of God, but as restored to life and exalted to the right hand of God in heaven, thence to return in majesty to consummate the kingdom of God; the glad tidings of salvation through Christ; the proclamation of the grace of God manifest and pledged in Christ*

***The Gospel is NOT something that is just LIVED!***

➤ What about being "SALT" and "LIGHT"?

- **MATTHEW 5:13-16 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

➤ **What about people seeing our "GOOD DEEDS"?**

- **1 PETER 2:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

- **ISAIAH 64:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

- **2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written,

*"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

<sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

**The Gospel is something that is PROCLAIMED and APPLIED!**

➤ **It is the heart of our MISSION!**

- **MATTHEW 28:18-20 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

➤ **It is the heart of our METHOD!**

- **2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-15 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

- **ROMANS 10:8-17 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

<sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

➤ **It is the heart of our MESSAGE!**

- **ACTS 2:36-39 (ESV)**

<sup>36</sup>“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

- **2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

***Any substitute or desertion or turning away is DISOBEDIENCE to God!***

➤ **ACCURSED is the “gospel” of any other KIND or PERSON.**

- **GALATIANS 1:6-10 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup>I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—<sup>7</sup>not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup>As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

<sup>10</sup>For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

- **AN pronounced AN-ATH'-EM-AH (THAYER'S GREEK DICT.)**

A person or thing devoted to or by God as without hope of being redeemed...devoted to destruction.

- **LEVITICUS 9:22-10:3 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup>Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. <sup>23</sup>And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. <sup>24</sup>And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

<sup>10:1</sup>Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. <sup>2</sup>And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’” And Aaron held his peace.

- **PROVERBS 1:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- **COLOSSIANS 2:6-8 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup>Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.