

“The Forgotten Fundamentals: The Gospel”

Selected Scriptures

Dr. Cliff McManis

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1. “Gospel” Means “Good News”

“the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’ (Luke 2:10-11)

2. The Gospel is a Specific Message.

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the Word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

3. There is No Salvation Apart from the Gospel.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16)

4. The Gospel is all about Christ.

“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2)

“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14)

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20)

A. Who He is:

“Christ...” (1 Corinthians 15:3)

“confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord” (Romans 10:9)

B. What He did:

“Christ died for our sins” (1 Corinthians 15:3)

“stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted...He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities...and the LORD had laid on Him the iniquity of us all...it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief ” (Isaiah 53:4-6, 10)

“God [the Father] made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, in order that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

C. What He demands:

1) He demands repentance

“times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31)

“Jesus answered and said to them... ‘I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance’ ” (Luke 5:32)

“Jesus came...preaching the gospel...saying, ‘Repent, and believe in the gospel’ ” (Mark 1:14-15)

“The Lord is not...willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9)

“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent...for the remission of sins’ ” (Acts 2:38)

“Jesus said to them... ‘repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations’ ” (Luke 24:46-47)

2) He demands faith

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

3) He demands loyalty

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it” (Luke 9:23-24)

“He who loves father or mother more than Me, is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37-38)

5. The Gospel is the Church’s Priority.

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature’ ” (Mark 16:15)

“Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel”(1 Corinthians 1:17)

“if any one preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:9)

6. The Gospel Will Bring Hostility.

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:18-19)

7. Your Response to the Gospel Will Determine Your Eternal Destiny.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24)

“the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8)

“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart” (Hebrews 4:7)

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved” (Acts 16:31)

Recommended Reading on the Gospel

Repentance: The First Word of the Gospel, Richard Roberts

The Gospel for Real Life, Jerry Bridges

Speaking of Jesus, J. Mack Stiles

“Go!” in Christian Living Beyond Belief, Cliff McManis

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, J. I. Packer

Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel, Will Metzger

How to Give Away Your Faith, Paul Little

Today’s Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic?, Walter Chantry

The Gospel According to Jesus, John MacArthur

Hard to Believe, John MacArthur

Faith Works, John MacArthur

Ashamed of the Gospel, John MacArthur

The God Who Justifies, James White

Getting the Gospel Right, R. C. Sproul