

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

THE UNCHANGING GOSPEL

TRUE GOSPEL, REAL DISCIPLES



Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers and sisters with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

substitutionary death
who gave himself for our sins to rescue *salvation, Savior* us from the present evil age,

exaireo - out of; to take for oneself
according to the will of our God and Father,

unchanging, from before time
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

(see Psalm 33.11; Hebrews 6.17)

grace - unmerited favor based on the substitutionary merit of Christ

peace - reconciliation with God through the atoning death of Christ on the cross

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;

He thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,

the purposes of His heart through all generations.

PSALM 33.10-11

Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

HEBREWS 6.17-18

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

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according to the will of our God and Father,

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to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* *(see Psalm 33.11; Hebrews 6.17)*

grace - unmerited favor based on the substitutionary merit of Christ

peace - reconciliation with God through the atoning death of Christ on the cross

** the eternal nature, significance, and worth of salvation (see Revelation 5.9-14; 7.9-14)*

In a loud voice they were saying:

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and strength and honor and glory and praise!”*

*Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on
the sea, and all that is in them, saying:*

*“To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”*

The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

REVELATION 5.12-14

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

“Amen!

Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever.

Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

REVELATION 8.9-14

THE GOSPEL IN SUMMARY

- ▶ There is a clear contrast between the gospel and “this present evil age”.
- ▶ The gospel is based on God’s unchanging will (determinations).
- ▶ The gospel is co-authored by God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son.
- ▶ The gospel is based on Christ’s substitutionary atonement.
- ▶ We (humanity) need to be rescued from this present evil age.
- ▶ Favor and reconciliation with God is only possible through the substitutionary and atoning merit of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed. Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant. ^{1.6-10}

THE “ALWAYS” GOSPEL

- ▶ The gospel will always present the atoning work of Jesus Christ as the only resolution for our inherent sinfulness.
- ▶ The gospel will always present our inevitable judgment and eternal punishment apart from repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
- ▶ The gospel will always emphasize our sinfulness; it will never evaluate our goodness or acceptance by God apart from the atoning work of Christ.
- ▶ The gospel will always contrast the will of God in both the Old and New Testaments with the present evil age which is destined for judgment.

ONE GOSPEL, NO ALTERNATIVES

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation— if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT COLOSSAE, 1.21-23

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.

THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT COLOSSAE, 1.3-6