

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Understanding the Good News of Jesus Christ

by Nathan Burd

What is the Gospel? Maybe you'd say, "Well, it's about Jesus loving us" or "It's about forgiveness." You'd be right. But the answer is even deeper, even richer—and even simpler. Understanding the Gospel isn't just for preachers, pastors, or people with a seminary degree. It's for you. It's for me. It's for everyone.

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS: MORE THAN A CHURCHY WORD

The word we translate as "Gospel" is the Greek word euangelion. What does it mean? Quite simply: "Good News." The Gospel is Good News—news so amazing, it cannot stay hidden, news that demands to be told. It's the Good News of Jesus Christ. Paul drives this home a few verses later: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

What is the Gospel? **It's the Good News of Jesus—His death, burial, and resurrection for us. This isn't abstract. It's personal.**

THE STORY BEHIND THE WORD: CROWNING A NEW KING

In ancient times, the word euangelion was reserved for the most important news—news about a new king, a great victory, or some massive shift in the world's story. So when Paul says that the Good News of Jesus is the gospel, what is he announcing? **He's announcing a new King. He's saying that Jesus is not just another teacher. He's not just a religious figure. He is the King who brings victory over sin and death.** When we ask "What is the Gospel?" we're asking about the message that Jesus really is who He said He is—and that His story changes absolutely everything.

BREAKING DOWN THE GOSPEL: CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS

"Christ died for our sins." Five little words, one massive truth. Here's where it hits home. The Gospel isn't just about something that happened long ago to people far away. It's about you. It's about me. Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Sin separates. Sin destroys relationships. Sin means we have a gap—a chasm—between us and God. **The Good News of Jesus is that when we couldn't cross the gap, He did. "Christ died for our sins." He paid the price. He took our place.**

THE BURIAL: JESUS WAS REALLY DEAD

Why does Paul add "He was buried" to his summary? It wasn't only to give us a timeline. It's proof. **Jesus didn't swoon, fake His death, or somehow escape. He was really dead.** The Good News of Jesus doesn't sugarcoat the cost—it emphasizes the reality. Jesus died for us, and everyone knew it.

THE RESURRECTION: GOOD NEWS THAT'S ALIVE

"He was raised on the third day." The resurrection is the heart of the Gospel. It's God's exclamation point. "What is the Gospel?" It's the Good News that Jesus didn't stay dead. He is alive. His victory is over sin, death, and everything that keeps us from God. If Jesus is alive, everything is different. If He's alive, hope is real. Forgiveness is available. Change is possible. Struggles, shame, and sorrow don't have the last word. **The Good News of Jesus—the Gospel—is that the miracle of new life is not just for Jesus, but for you, too. The tomb is empty, and that means your sin, guilt, and regret don't have to define you anymore.**

WHY DOES THE GOSPEL MATTER TODAY?

- **It tells you that you are never too far gone.**
- **It promises you are never alone.**
- **It declares your failures do not have the final say.**
- **It reminds you that God's love is bigger than your sin and your circumstances.**

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

*It's the message that Christ died for our sins.
He was buried, and He rose again.*