

# BibleTalk Radio



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Christ for the Philippines Mission

## What Is the Gospel?

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Many times wherever we go, we have people that are interested, for example, in what kind of church. They say, "What religion are you?" I explain to them we are Midway Baptist Church, and I also have to explain we're not a religion, which most people, when you say that, they kind of look at you strange, like, "What do you mean you're not a religion?"

We say that, very often here on the BibleTalk Radio Show, what we have is not a religion, but we have a relationship with the living God, the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And what we're interested in preaching and teaching is, number one, the Gospel.

One of the questions that we often get is: What is the Gospel? By the grace of God, every answer that we ever have for every question comes straight from the Word of God.

In I Corinthians Chapter 15, we are given a definition of the Gospel. Please open your Bibles to the book of I Corinthians, Chapter 15, and we're going to begin in verse 1. This is the apostle Paul writing his first letter to the church at Corinth. This is why it's called I Corinthians. He had written two letters to the church at Corinth. He begins by saying in verse 1:

*<sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel... There's the word, "the Gospel." I*

*declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; <sup>2</sup>By which also ye are saved... That word "saved" is very, very important. That word "saved" is a key eternal word, dear listener.*

Before I continue, let me ask you this question as we're reading this. Dear listener, if you were to die tonight, are you 50%, 75%, or 95% sure that you would go to Heaven? Or are you 100% sure? The difference is eternity.

Are you 50% sure? Have you done a lot of good works? Are you a faithful church member? Have you done a lot of good things and perhaps when you stand before God one day maybe your good works will outweigh your bad works or your sins?

Are you 95% sure? Maybe you're a very good faithful church member and you give money to the poor and you do all these things and you're very sure because of all that, you're 95% sure that you'll go to Heaven.

Dear listener, may I submit to you that, even if you're 99.99% sure that you'll go to Heaven, none of those things will get you to Heaven? The only way to be 100% sure, and I'm talking about absolutely, mathematically, 100% sure that you will go to Heaven is not by your works,



not according to how good a person you are. Because the Bible says, *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* We all stand condemned already because of our sin.

Dear listener, do you know which one of your sins is the one that condemns you to an eternity in Hell? It's very easy. The first one. The first sin that you ever committed in your life is the one that condemned you, because it's not about how many sins we commit or how big the sin is that we commit. It is about whom we have sinned against. Because we have sinned against an infinite God, it requires an infinite penalty.

There are only two answers to that offense. Number one, in the infinity or an eternity in Hell, or having your sins completely paid for by the Lord Jesus Christ. Therein lies the Gospel. Let's continue now with that thought in mind.

<sup>2</sup>*By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.* What does it mean to believe in vain? Many people, if you ask them who is Jesus Christ, many people, most people here will say He's the Saviour of the world. They believe that He is the Saviour of the world. However, there is a difference between believing and actually placing your trust 100% on the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a big difference.

Let me explain to you the difference. Let's say, for example, that I need to travel to Manila and so I purchase a ticket on Philippine Airlines and I don't know exactly the way to Manila. I know it's somewhere to the north, but I don't know exactly the way. I also do not know how to pilot an airbus A319 aircraft. So what I do is I take a taxi or take a jitney to San Jose Airport and give my bags to the people there. And when it's my

turn when my flight is called, I walk up and inside that airplane and I sit down and I fasten my seatbelt, and I trust that airplane to take me to my destination. That is very similar to the kind of faith that we must have in Jesus Christ.

You see, many people believe in airplanes because they see the airplane flying over every day as it is getting ready to land or when it's taking off. So many people say, "Yes, I know there are airplanes," but there's a difference between believing in the airplane and trusting it. How many of you would actually sit down inside of an airplane and allow it to take you to your destination?

Many people say, "Yes, I believe Jesus is the Saviour," but there are few people who have actually trusted... sat down in... Christ, fastened the seatbelt of faith and trusted Him to take you to Heaven when you die. Very few people have done that.

So when he says here at the end of verse 2 "unless you have believed in vain," that means saying, "Oh, yes, Jesus is the Saviour of the world," but not trusting Him.

"Oh, yes, Jesus is the Saviour of the world, but since I want to go to Heaven, I'll be a good church member; I'll give money to the poor; I'll do my alms; I'll complete the sacraments; I'll do good works; I'll be a faithful member; I... I... I... I."

You see? That's not faith in Jesus Christ. That is faith in self; that is faith in religion.

<sup>3</sup>*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received...* That means even the apostle Paul had to have received the Lord Jesus Christ. He had to have received the Gospel



before he could turn around and preach it to someone else. Even Paul was a sinner who needed salvation. He says, *[I've already received it], how that Christ died...* What did He die for? *[He died] for our sins.*

Dear listener, if Jesus Christ died for your sins, why should you have to do anything else for your sins? Jesus Christ paid for them all. He died for our sins, according to the Scriptures. The Bible plainly declared in so many places, Isaiah 53, Psalm 20, Psalm 21, Psalm 22, that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the One who would come and be born of a virgin, that He is the one who would die for our sins.

*<sup>4</sup>And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

Dear listener, the point of tonight's devotion is this. We have a living God. Why place our trust in a dead religion? We have a living Saviour. Why place faith in a dead self, who is dead in trespasses and sins?

*<sup>5</sup>And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve.* Cephas is another name for Peter.

*<sup>6</sup>After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once...* So Paul starts giving here a witness of how many people have seen Jesus Christ. Now, the Lord Jesus Christ said something very interesting, and with this, we'll finish our devotion tonight.

When he rose again from the dead, He showed Himself to the apostles, but there was one apostle missing and that was Thomas. The reason he is called Doubting Thomas is because, later on, the apostles said to Thomas, "We have seen the Saviour. He is risen."

And Thomas said, "Unless I put my fingers in His hands and put my hand..." in other words, "Unless I see Him for myself, I won't believe it."

Then a week later, Jesus came and Thomas was there, and Jesus knew the heart of Thomas and He said, "Would you like to put your fingers in my wounds? Your hand in my side?" And, of course, the Scripture plainly tells us that Thomas bowed before Him and said to Him, "My Lord and my God."

Now, Jesus said something very interesting. He said, "You believe because you see. Blessed are they who have not seen, yet believe."

Dear listener, if you want to see Jesus Christ, you have to use your eye of faith. Won't you trust Jesus Christ and what He did for you, His finished work on the cross for your sins, and the fact that He rose again on the third day. He is living today in Heaven, listening to this program right now, just like you, and He's listening to your heart and He knows if you're rejecting Him in favor of your religion, in favor of yourself.

But He will also listen if you simply turn in faith to Him right now and tell Him, "Lord, I understand now what You have done for me. Lord, I cannot go to Heaven on my own. Please, Lord Jesus Christ, I trust in You to take me to Heaven. Would You take me to Heaven tonight?"

Something like that, and according to His own promise, Romans 10:13, *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall... SHALL... be saved.*