

## Message: The Gospel

Hello and welcome to JesusFamilies.org's audio messages!

The title of this message is, "The gospel".

There are many people preaching and proclaiming what they call 'the gospel of Jesus Christ'. Is what they are proclaiming accurate? Let's take a look at this important subject. Here is a fair statement of what most Christians believe "the gospel" to be.

"Believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will be heaven bound."

Here is the web-blessed "official" wiki version:

"In Christianity, the gospel, also known as the Good News is the message of Jesus, the Christ or Messiah — God's ruler promised by the Scriptures — specifically, the coming Kingdom of God, his death on the cross and resurrection to restore people's relationship with God, the descent of the Holy Spirit on believers as the helper, the resulting promise and hope of being saved for any who believes and follow Jesus.

The Christian message of good news is described in the four gospels. It relates to the saving acts of God due to the work of Jesus on the cross and resurrection from the dead which bring reconciliation ("atonement") between people and God."

So, perhaps another good summary of the Christian gospel would be:

"Jesus paid for our sins by his blood sacrifice on the cross, and all one has to do to go to heaven is to believe these things about him."

Is this what Jesus or Joshua himself taught? What does he say the good news, or gospel, is? The truth is that the Christian gospel is a mix of half or poorly stated truths with religious falsehoods and dead facts.

What would be an example of a half-truth? Let's say a man named Bob walked into a shopping mall and opened fire with a gun and killed several people. Let's further say that a woman who was loyal and attached to Bob, heard about what Bob did. If the police visited her house and asked her, 'what did Bob do today', and she answered, "Bob visited the mall today", she would have conveyed a "half-truth". Her answer was technically "true", but she omitted at least one important fact and by so doing distorted the overall communication.

A good example of another distortion which is popular these days is to say something like, "Jesus nowhere condemns homosexuals". That is a true statement, but if it is stated in a context meant to promote, approve of, or justify homosexual behavior, it presents a false view of Jesus' position towards homosexuality. The full truth is that Jesus not only does not condemn homosexuals, but he does not condemn anyone. Rather, people condemn themselves. Furthermore, Jesus clearly constrains sexual expressions approved by God to a married man and woman. Jesus clearly teaches that sexual expressions between anyone other than a husband and a wife is wrong and makes those people "unclean".

In the same way, religious leaders present a gospel that is substantially different than the actual good news that Joshua spoke, which distorted gospel serves their purposes, not his. And what is the primary purpose the false gospel servers? To bring people into the organizations they call 'the church', and thus provide a vocation for the religious leaders.

And, what do the religious leaders do when a person brings Joshua's truths which show that their beliefs, behavior or practices are wrong? They do the same thing they have done for thousands of years – they fight against it with half-truths and distortions, and historically oftentimes violence.

Please listener, have the courage and curiosity to listen to this message so that you might hear the authentic good news the Light of the world actually gave. What do you have to lose by listening carefully and checking out what I have to say? The only way to overcome something false that we believe is to carefully and with a child-like heart listen to the one who calls himself – the truth.

Let's look to understand what the gospel is by first clearly defining what it is not. As you listen to the Christian gospel, one aspect that is clearly false is the stuff about "sacrifice" and "blood". These jewish religious concepts are totally foreign to the teachings of the Light of the world. Joshua nowhere teaches that his death was some kind of sacrifice to pay for a person's sins. This should astound the listener, and I exhort the listener to verify this fact by using a good on-line scripture search engine to search Joshua's teachings. People must get past just blindly swallowing what they are taught by the religious leaders and instead love God with all our mind and verify claims such as these.

Listen to what Joshua says regarding religious leaders as those first followers of his asked him a question:

"Do you know that the religious leaders were offended when you said their religious beliefs were error?" But He answered and said, "Every plant which my heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

We must not listen to religious leaders teachings when they have no basis in the Light's teachings. Stated again, Joshua of Nazareth has NO TEACHINGS to support the concept of God wanting or needing a blood sacrifice to forgive people's sins. All the proprietary atonement teachings are completely foreign to the person and teachings of Joshua of Nazareth, and thus are merely traditions of men created by people and their weird opinions about God...making god to be like them, namely blood thirsty.

What other things about the Christian gospel are wrong? A significant half-truth that is regularly preached as part of the gospel is something to the effect of...

'Believe in Jesus' or 'believe these things about Jesus' or believe these things which Jesus did for you in' or, 'believe he died for your sins' – and God will impart the free gift of salvation.

This is more error about a critical issue. While Joshua did say a few times "believe in me", all his other teachings make it plain that what he meant by that phrase was "have faith in ME", NOT believe stuff about me, which is what the vast majority of preachers convey when proclaiming their gospel; and what their hearers understand and walk away with. Please allow me to repeat that again....

When Joshua said, "believe in me", he meant "trust me", meaning believe what I SAY, not just what you want to hear.

A perfect example of this is the John 3:16 passage that is quoted as the heart of the gospel. While verse 16 is a precious truth, it should not be cut off from the rest of the passage. Here is the whole passage:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But he who **practices the truth** comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

Can the listener see how cutting John 3:16 off from the following truths he conveys in verses 18 through 21 creates a half truth that misrepresents his message? How often do you hear verses 18 through 21 quoted in the presentation of the christian gospel?

Here they are again:

“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

John 3:16 is often viewed by Christians as the heart of the gospel. Again, while it is a precious truth that God loves us, without the following information in verses 18 through 21, the precious truth is only half the story and is thus distorted and changed. The other half is, **IT REALLY MATTERS WHAT WE DO WITH THE TRUTH IN John 3:16**. Do we love God back and thus turn away from the darkness of falsehood in the world and my own evil participation in that darkness, or do we deceive ourselves thinking that God’s love for us means we can do whatever we want with our lives? For the average Christian, it is the latter.

So, to sum up this far, part one of the false representation that the Christian gospel proclaims is to have Joshua saying, “believe stuff about me” (false) instead of what Joshua truly conveys, which is, “believe ME and thus do what I say”.

Since Christianity and Christians are primarily concerned about having the correct beliefs, their obligation ends when they quote ‘believe in Jesus’, meaning they agree with who they are told he was, and other stuff about him. To verify this, just see any religious organization’s ‘statement of beliefs’ or what they call their ‘statement of faith’ in order to know what the Christians take Joshua to mean when he says, “believe in me”. What you will find is not who they should place their faith in, but rather what they should believe ABOUT this Jesus person and other God stuff. Their statements of belief typically contain NOTHING about how Joshua wants us to live or behave, and thus they nullify the actual good news.

Part two of the distortion of the ‘believe in Jesus’ stuff is what is usually attached – if you do believe this stuff about him, you will be saved. This is a terrible corruption of what he taught.

Here are just a few of the many saying of his that demonstrate that the 'believing stuff about him will get me to heaven' belief is false.

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it...“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

And Joshua was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem. And someone said to Him, “Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?” And He said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”

“You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.”

There are many dozens of teachings of the Light of the world that clearly state that following Joshua will be difficult and that **being faithful to him** - through all the difficulty caused by one's faith in him and the hardships caused by speaking and living his words out - **is required**.

What a stark contrast to the false gospel which conveys, “believe his name and this stuff about him, go to church and you are saved - heaven bound”. The concept conveyed with the phrase, “follow Jesus” has been reduced and corrupted to ‘believe this stuff about him and get a free ride to heaven’. Again, this is a terrible misrepresentation of what Joshua of Nazareth actually taught and lived out. He did not come to be a religious talisman, a dead icon used to justify the religious system. Rather, he came to change humans and their behavior...to revolutionize the human experience.

To sum up then, and in preparing for what the true gospel of the Light of the world is, we have seen that the current and popular Christian gospel – while containing some accurate facts about Jesus of Nazareth – has two fatal falsehoods.

First, that Joshua's death is central in the gospel and as the christian's proclaim - by his shedding his blood by his atoning sacrifice, he made a way for a person who believes that stuff about his blood sacrifice , to have their sins forgiven and to be heaven bound. Again, this is false.

Second, that getting a place in heaven is as easy as:

- Believing in the magic name of ‘Jesus Christ’, or labeling yourself as a ‘christian’;
- Believing the stuff about him the religious leaders say is important, and;
- Attending a religious organization the religious leaders call ‘church’.

In sum, you can “believe” the Christian gospel of jesus christ without ever having any faith or doing any of what Joshua commands or teaches.

This is the good news or gospel of the current Christian religious system and its leadership. It is an empty, false thing...free heaven for all who agree with the religious leader's doctrine.

Now let's take a look at what the actual person Joshua of Nazareth says is the good news that he brings to mankind. I again encourage the listener to search Joshua's sayings yourself to prove that what I am saying is true.

Here is the simple gospel or good news of Joshua of Nazareth. Please listen carefully.

God, the Creator, exists – He is your spiritual Father – and he cares deeply for you. Furthermore, He sent Joshua to be your leader, to show you how to live and the way home to your Father. And if you trust him, get to know him and his Father through his teachings and story, make him your leader and sincerely desire to do what he says, you will enter into eternal life, meaning you will never spiritually die. Please allow me to repeat that...

Now, please take a moment to reflect on the two 'gospels'.

Can you see the difference? The Christian gospel is all about believing stuff about God and the bible and Jesus with no change of life required. The authentic good news, in contrast, requires both faith in the Light of the world, as well as our doing what he says based on a love motivation for our new-found Father. The difference is eternal life itself.

Let's take a look at some of Joshua's teachings that support the gospel I just presented.

When you search Joshua's teachings where he mentions the gospel, you will find the following key concept associated with his use of the phrase "the gospel".

The first is the concept of Kingdom or Kingdom of God. This saying sums that association up well:

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."  
Mark 1:15

"The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached..." Luke 16:16

While the concept of a 'Kingdom' is fading on the earth in favor of other forms of human governance, most people still understand what it is. It is a people ruled by one person, a King.

So, the first important concept that Joshua proclaims with his good news is that there is a real kingdom and it is ruled by God – the kingdom of God. Joshua elsewhere teaches that he is God's appointed King – see Matt. 25. In other words, the Creator of the Universe and of humans – God – has appointed a King to lead mankind, and that King is his Son, Joshua of Nazareth. Very simple and clear, isn't it? And of course a king wields ultimate authority over the people he oversees. And yet, is this how Joshua is treated even by those who claim that he is somehow over them? Is he respected as a glorious king and thus people are eager to know what their king wants and do his will? Dear listener, if you cannot see that people listen to just about anyone other than Joshua of Nazareth, then you are in the deep darkness of delusion and deceit.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of God is obviously separate from the other kingdoms in the world since the kingdom of God has a leader who is rejected by the rulers of the kingdoms of the world, including the religious kingdoms. Therefore, those ruled by the king of the kingdom of God will be separate and different than those ruled by other kings... they have a ruler and will not obey others who claim authority over them when those rulers demand the king's subjects to contradict their ruler. This is especially true of religious leaders who claim to represent God and lead the people and yet nullify the Light of the world with their teachings and ways. Please dear listener, don't deceive yourself and say, 'not my church...not my pastor, minister or whatever'.

The sad truth here is that since Christians only believe stuff about Jesus, they don't hear him directing them to anything other than each individual's version of 'be a good person'. In this way, they are able to both ignore the King's teachings and yet believe they are bound for heaven. This is the Christian religious system.

On the other hand, Joshua teaches there is to be a clear separation between his subjects and those of the world who are not under his authority. He says so in saying such as this:

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me **out of the world**; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word... I have given them Your word; and **the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world**. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. **They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world**. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth."

Joshua makes a clear delineation between his kingdom – the kingdom of God – and all other kingdoms, which he groups together with the term "the world". Again, the Christians will say being part of 'the church' is the manifestation of this kingdom of God. This could not be further from the truth. What the religious social organizations are – that which the world calls 'the church' - are merely a substitute...a counterfeit for the authentic manifestation of the kingdom of God, which manifestation is a group of people actually living by love and truth with Joshua as their leader. Let us make the contrast clear.

The counterfeit is a group of people all taking the same religious label; who don't really know each other; who meet a few hours a week as it is convenient to do so; who live no differently than the moral agnostics around them; and who have a leader other than Joshua of Nazareth even while they insist he is somehow their leader.

The authentic manifestation of the kingdom of God is a group of people who treat each other as true family by caring for and truly loving one another; who share everything their Father gives them; who do the work of their Father out of their love for him; and who have no leader other than Joshua of Nazareth.

May those who have eyes to see, see.

For those who have a problem with the King concept, please remember dear listener, a king can be good, or a king can be bad. Authority is not bad, and a person can be close to someone who has authority over them. Joshua is the perfect king, the ultimate good king, the best king mankind could ever hope for, and yet, he is rejected and ignored in this aspect tragically especially by those who claim him as their god. How could this be?

Don't you remember?

"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 This is the

judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”

And the people cry, ‘my deeds are not evil’. That depends upon your standard, and here is Joshua’s standard:

“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The king could set no lower standard. But this king knows his subjects well, and he is there to provide what we need when we fail to keep the standard. He is a king with compassion...how sad that people’s fear and pride keep them away from this King.

Let us repeat or sum up Joshua of Nazareth’s gospel. His good news is that humans have been given a perfect leader appointed by God and if people listen to this king, things will be good...no more hatred and expressions of pride and fear which cause so much pain and suffering among people.

That is incredibly good news, but of course it can only come to pass if people trust and have faith in the king. Another concept he associated with making him my king is the concept of repentance. Before I can make him my King, I have to first acknowledge that I have largely ignored my heavenly Father as well as His King. I need to see how I have lived by pride, fear and selfishness and thus hurt other people as a result. I need to understand how I have lived for foolish things, refusing to listen carefully to the only person who truly cares for me...my heavenly Father and His compassionate Son and King. Can you do this dear listener?

The simple truth is that the kingdom of God is to be manifested among those who do trust and have faith in the king and thus represent him to the other people of the world. His people – his subjects - are to come out of the world and be a visible, distinct and separate people that are apart from those who reject him due to their loving both truth, and other people.

This simple truth has now been presented to you. You now have a choice. You can continue to believe the false Christian gospel you have stored in your mind, and go about your life like all the other people who do not have the Light as their King.

Or you can have remorse over your ignoring the Light of the world and become one of his subjects. You can see your need for a leader other than yourself or the others you submit to. You can choose to turn away from the darkness of this world and its religious counterfeits, and instead have an authentic life of faith and thus make a real difference in this world.

The choice is each of ours. But dear listener, please don’t deceive yourself thinking you somehow made that choice some time ago. Don’t think the Christian gospel will ‘save you’, for it will not. It will merely make you more accountable for your choices. It has no power to bring life, only death and self-condemnation.

Please listen to the only one who can bring you truly good news...the one who says of himself that he alone is the sure way to your Father, the only truth that matters, and life everlasting to all who will walk the difficult way in his footsteps.

Peace to you, dear listener.