

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? **Text: Romans 1:16-17 / 2 Tim. 1:8-10**

*The Glory of the Gospel*

—Bill Turner 6/2025

1. What is the gospel? we need to know first because it carries eternal implications.  
We also need to know because it has been mis-interpreted and mis-used.
2. There is only One True Gospel—and Many other Counterfeit gospels...  
(Matthew 10:27 ESV) “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves,  
so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

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## I. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? (Romans 1:16-17; 6:23)

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### A. THE GOSPEL It's one of the most important words of all time

*It encompasses the entire Christian message —But we use it in different ways...*

1. In one Sense the Over-Arching theme of the Bible is the Gospel Story...
  - a) From Creation, to the Fall, to Redemption and then Restoration
  - b) from the Garden of Eden to the Paradise in Revelation
2. The Greek word means: ‘Good News’ – God’s Eternal Plan to Save Man
  - a) A Promise from God even in OT Times (Galatians 3:8–9)
3. We call the first four books of the NT ‘the Gospels’ (Mark 1:1)
  - a) because they are about the saving Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.
4. But Jesus didn’t Just Bring Us Good News—Jesus is the Good News!

### B. THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The Gospel Good News of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16)
  - a) The Power is not in the preacher or Personality or in the package how it is presented
  - b) The Power is from God — the power is in the blood!
2. The Gospel Good News of the King & His Kingdom (Matthew 4:23–24)
  - a) When Jesus calmed a terrible storm—He showed His power over Creation,  
and the effects of the curse of the fall were suspended as He takes control.
  - b) When Jesus gives sight to the Blind—heals the Sick—Feeds the Hungry—  
—Casts Out Demons — and Raises the Dead...
  - c) He is Revealing that in The New Creation—There Will Be No more Storms,  
no more Sickness or Demons or Disease or Death.
  - d) No more Tears or Sorrow or Death because the former things will have passed away

### C. THE GOSPEL GOOD NEWS OF GOD’S PLAN TO SAVE MAN

1. The Good News of Salvation (1 Peter 1:10-12)
  - a) Something the Prophets Searched & Inquired of... Even Angels desired to look into.
2. Good News of Forgiveness, Eternal Life & Immortality (2 Tim 1:8-10).
  - a) The Gospel is the Good News of How God the Son came to earth in human form to  
live a perfect life and die for our sins as a perfect atoning sacrifice.
3. This is the Glory of the Gospel of Grace (Rom 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:1–4)
  - a) You can search all the world’s religions... all the world’s faith systems...  
all the ideologies and belief systems... but you will not find grace.

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## II. WHY ARE THERE COUNTERFEIT GOSPELS? (1 Cor. 1:18-25)

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### A. WHY ARE THERE COUNTERFEIT GOSPELS?

1. **Why would Paul say, *I Am Not Ashamed of the gospel of Christ?* (Rom 1:16)**
  - a) Because there are some who are ashamed of the gospel of Christ
2. **Some think the gospel is Weak or Foolish (1 Corinthians 1:18, 22–23)**
  - a) The Jews Didn't Want a Suffering Savior—they wanted a World Conquerer
  - b) The Greeks Didn't Want a Jewish Carpenter or Poor Rabbi from Nazareth...  
they wanted a Great Greek Philosopher from Athens.
3. **But God Knows the Selfish Heart of Pride and it is Repulsive to Him**
  - a) God Chose to Save Man in a way that destroys the arrogance of Boasting in Self  
(1 Corinthians 1:19-21; 26-29)
4. **So Why Are There Counterfeit Gospels? > They're Cheaper, Prettier, Easier**
  - a) Counterfeits don't cost as much as the real thing...
  - b) Counterfeits Don't Force us to Look in the Mirror of God's Word and come Face to Face with Our Own Sin. They expose others sins – but not our own
  - c) Counterfeits Honor and Exalt Self—Instead of God
5. **So False Gospels were already creeping into the Church in the 1st century —Even while the Apostles were still alive! (Galatians 1:6-7)**

### B. WHAT ARE COUNTERFEIT GOSPELS?

**“A God without wrath, brought men without sin, into a kingdom without judgement, through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.” (H. Richard Niebuhr)**

1. **The Self-Esteem Gospels:**
  - a) Sin is negative self-feelings. We didn't need Jesus - we need Oprah and Dr. Phil.
2. **The 'I'm a Good Person' Gospel.**
  - a) I don't need the blood of Jesus, because I'm a “good person”
3. **Self-fulfillment Gospels:**
  - a) You are the center of all things,
  - b) God exists for your self-fulfillment and self-actualization.
4. **The 'Follow Your Heart' Gospel:**
  - a) Original Sin is not Eve disobeying God...
  - b) the original sin is that she did not fulfill her full potential to follow her heart
5. **The Universalist Gospel:**
  - a) All Roads Lead to Heaven...
  - b) Jesus is a way but not necessarily the way...
  - c) 'because there are MANY ways' you just have to pick which way you want...
6. **The Therapeutic Gospel:**
  - a) Jesus dying on a cross is OK... BUT— Sigmond Freud, Karl Marx, Humanist Intellectuals—Really Opened Our Eyes to Truth!
7. **Health and Wealth Prosperity Gospels...**
  - a) God exists to make you healthy, wealthy and happy

## 8. New Age Gospels:

- a) salvation is not from sin against God—but from lack of knowing your true ‘divine’ self

## 9. The Gospel of What’s Happening Now...

- a) Whatever is popular. > whatever is trending. > Whatever is the New Big Thing.

## 10. The Liberation Theology Gospel.

- a) The gospel of Karl Marx that liberates us from oppressive unjust social structures
- b) This is the Gospel That is now Taught in Ivy League Divinity Departments
  - **But We Now Know the Sinister Background of Liberation Theology...**
  - Ion Mihai Pacepa was the highest ranking KGB Cold War Defector to the West.
  - A 3 star General and former head of Romanian Secret Police working w/ the KGB.
  - He was called “the Cold War’s most important defector.”
  - He revealed that Liberation Theology was NOT from the Bible—it was from the KGB
  - The KGB spread it throughout South America to spread Political Revolutions...

“Liberation theology has been generally understood to be a marriage of Marxism and Christianity. What has not been understood is that it was not the product of Christians who pursued Communism, but of Communists who pursued Christians,” Pacepa said.<sup>1</sup>

## C. THE TRAITS OF COUNTERFEIT GOSPELS

### 1. Preach a Different Gospel and a Different Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

- Marxist Jesus • Therapist Jesus • New Age Jesus • Universalist Jesus
- A Jesus who Cares More About Your Happiness than your Holiness
- A Jesus who Didn’t Need to Die—Because You Perfect the Way You Are!

**“After the prophets, the false prophets; after the apostles, the false apostles; after the Christ, the anti-christ.” (Chrysostom)**

### 2. But is that True? —HERE ARE SIX THINGS JESUS DID NOT SAY...

#### (1) Jesus Did NOT Say— ‘Follow Your Heart...’

- (a) He Said: ‘Follow Me’ (Luke 9:59)

#### (2) Jesus Did NOT Say— ‘Be True to Yourself...’

- (a) He Said: “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (Mark 8:34)

#### (3) Jesus Did NOT Say— ‘Believe in Yourself...’

- (a) He Said: “Believe in Me” (Jn 11:25)

#### (4) Jesus Did NOT Say— ‘Live Your Truth’

- (a) He Said: “I Am the Truth” (Jn 14:6)

#### (5) Jesus Did NOT Say— ‘All Roads Lead to Heaven...’

- (a) He said “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Jn 14:6)

#### (6) Jesus Did NOT Say— ‘As long as you are happy...’

- (a) He Said: “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? (Mark 8:34–36)

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<sup>1</sup> Ion Mihai Pacepa, Highest ranking KGB defector, ‘Secret Roots of Liberation Theology’ National Review

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### **III. HOW DO I OBEY THE TRUE GOSPEL? (Acts 2:38; 8:35-38)**

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#### **A. FAITH (John 3:16)**

1. We must believe the Truth about God and Reject the Lies of the Enemy
2. We Must Believe the Truth—But Even the Demons Believe (James 2:19)
3. Faith is Not Just an Opinion—Faith is a Conviction
4. It Means to Trust and Obey (Heb. 5:9)

#### **B. CONFESSION (Romans 10:9–10)**

1. Not Only Are We To Believe in Him in our hearts...
2. We are also called to Confess this this faith in our words (Romans 10:9–10)
3. As Jesus commanded (Matthew 10:32–33)
4. Jesus Himself made the good confession before Pilate (1 Tim 6:12-13)

#### **C. REPENTANCE (Lk 13:3)**

1. This is How We Put Our Faith into Action—
2. By Turning Away from our Sins—and Turning To God in Faith
3. God commands us to repent and turn away from sin (Acts 17:30)
4. Repentance is absolutely Critical to be saved (Lk 13:3)

#### **D. BAPTISM (Acts 2:38)**

1. On the day of Pentecost after Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead—they asked how to be saved (Acts 2:38)
2. Jesus commanded this (Mt 28:18-20)
  - a) Jesus has ALL authority in heaven and earth—He Commands Baptism
3. MANY EXAMPLES OF BAPTISM (Acts 8:35–38)

#### **E. WHEN YOU OBEY THE TRUE GOSPEL OF CHRIST**

##### **YOU RECEIVE ALL THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS GIVEN IN CHRIST...**

1. GRACE: The Forgiveness of Sin (Eph 1:3, 7)
2. TRANSFORMATION: Born Again as a New Creation in Christ
3. ADOPTION: As a Child of God w/ an Eternal Inheritance
4. SANCTIFICATION: The Gift of the Holy Spirit
5. ETERNAL LIFE (Titus 1:2)

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. The Gospel good news is Bigger than the Universe Because it was planned before the universe even began.
2. Bigger than than Space & Time because it saves us for eternity!
3. It was paid for at a cost greater than all the universe—blood of Jesus
4. A Decision for Christ that will change your life (Romans 6:23)