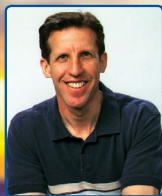


the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself" (Colossians 1:20). Ephesians 1:14 says that "He (that is Jesus Christ) is our peace."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ brings us to God so that we discover abundant and eternal life (John 10:10). The miracle of the Gospel transforms life from the inside out. People are looking to become new, hence the popularity of television makeover shows. The Gospel of Christ will do an internal makeover in our heart when we apply the amazing love of Jesus dying on the cross personally for us and then rising again so that we know that heaven is our inheritance as a free gift from God! Our responsibility before God is to repent and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). God promises He will forgive us, free us, and give us peace! Let the miracle of the Gospel save you from sin and death! If we can provide further help for you please feel free to e-mail us or visit our church.



Matthew Recker

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The Miracle of the Gospel

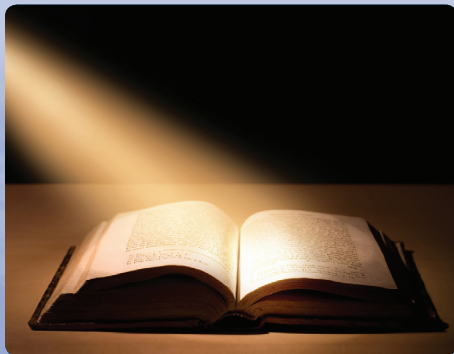
The Miracle of the Gospel

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most miraculous message in the world. The word "gospel" simply means "good news," and the Gospel is just that. Paul defines the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8: *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. ⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. ⁸ And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."*

To summarize, the Gospel is that Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, was sent by His Father from heaven to earth. This is often called the incarnation. Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life and yet was crucified to die for our sins, shedding His blood as a substitutionary death on the cross. He was buried and bodily rose again from death and then was seen on multiple occasions by multiple people. This was all prophesied before it was done. What a miracle!

The Gospel provides **FORGIVENESS** for our sins from God, the One who really matters. All of us have a conscience and a moral law written into our heart. This is evidence that God made us, for every law requires a law-giver. Many people who want and try to be good know they still have not been perfectly good. The Bible calls this sin, for *"to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"* (James 4:17). The Gospel of Christ declares that this is the one and only way for God to forgive our sin.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). Salvation cannot be earned by our good works, for they will never be good enough. Friend, no matter how hard you fight to justify yourself by your good works, the Word of God and your conscience prevails to prove that you are a sinner by nature and choice. Only in Jesus Christ can we be forgiven and declared righteous by a holy God.



The Gospel provides **FREEDOM**. Personal freedom and basic human rights are just and fair, but even the freedoms we experience in our own country have not brought the deepest meaning to life. Many people know they should be free but deep down the idol of individualism has bound them to sin. You know you should be free but you are not! Some sin may right now have you trapped, enslaved, and bordering on misery. It could be anger, drugs, alcohol, gambling, bitterness, jealousy or hatred.

The Gospel message is true liberation. Paul writes that we are *"delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."* The word "redemption" speaks about the price paid to set one free from slavery. Jesus Christ came to pay the full price to free us from sin, Satan, and death. *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"* (John 8:32,36).

The Gospel provides **PEACE**. The Gospel is a message of peace on earth and that peace with God and man is available through Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace. Sin causes man to war against one another, but also to war against God. When one grasps the infinite love and amazing grace that is in the Gospel, and believes that "Christ died for us," it causes one to be at peace with God. Romans 5:1 states, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* *"And having made peace through*