

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST



1. You must have an encounter with Jesus:

- You can't hope yourself into eternal life.
- You can't just think your way into a relationship with God.
- Religion, Christian or other, won't work either (Nicodemus)

2. The Gospel

1 Cor 15:1-2 *Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

a. What is this Gospel?

1 Cor 15:3 *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me [Paul] also, as to one abnormally born.*

3. Let's look at the Gospel in more detail. Paul mentions (7) points:

a. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures

- Mat 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (prophetic).
- Mat 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.
- 1 Pet 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,
- Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1) Jesus really died and didn't faint

John 19:33-37 *But when they came to Jesus and found that **he was already dead**, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the **soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear**, bringing a sudden **flow of blood and water**. 35 The man who saw it [John] has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. 36 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: **"Not one of his bones will be broken."** 37 and, as another scripture says, **"They will look on the one they have pierced."***

The spear pierced through his lung, entered into his heart. The pleural fluid of the lung and the blood from the left ventricle of His heart poured out. These were experienced soldiers - they knew how to be certain someone was dead!

b. He was buried

John 19:38-42 *Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. 39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. 41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. 42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.*

c. He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Luke 18:31-34 *Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. 32 He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. 33 On the third day he will rise again." 34 The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.*

Acts 1:21-22 *"Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."*

d. He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve

Luke 24:33-36 *They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and **has appeared to Simon.**" 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread. 36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

e. He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time

1 Cor 15:6 *After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*

f. He appeared to James, then to all the apostles

1 Cor 15:7 *Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,*

g. Last of all he appeared to me [Paul] also.

Acts 9:3-5 *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.*

1 Cor 15:8 *and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

JESUS IS "I AM"

Introduction

Jesus speaks to us from the New Testament, revealing to the World who He really is. Jesus says "I am the ...":

1) Son of God

Mat 27:43 *"He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"*

Mark 14:61-62 *But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

2) Bread of life

John 6:35,48,51 *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. 48 I am the bread of life. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."*

3) Light of the World

John 8:12,23 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." 23 But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."*

John 9:5 *"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

4) Gate for the sheep

John 10:7,9 *Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."*

5) Good shepherd

John 10:11,14 *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."*

6) Resurrection and life

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

7) Way, truth and life

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

8) True vine

John 15:1 *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener."*

Summary

"Jesus said I am the ..."

1. Son of God
2. Bread of life
3. Light of the World
4. Gate for the sheep
5. Good shepherd
6. Resurrection and life
7. Way, truth and life
8. True vine

Who is He to you?

John 3:16-18 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe stands condemned already** because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

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