

What is the Gospel?

The Shorter Catechism agreed upon by the Reverend Assembly of Divines at Westminster

Quest What is the chief end of man?

Ans Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

- I glorify God by _____ Him. (Phil. 3:10)
- I glorify God by _____ Him. (Matthew 22:37)
- I glorify God by _____ Him. (2 Cor. 5:9-10, 1 Thess. 2:4, Matthew 28:20)
- I glorify God by _____ Him. (Phil. 1:20, Acts 16:25, Rom. 15:11)
... by telling Him how great He is (worship) – Act 16:25, Rom. 15:11
... by telling other people how great He is (evangelism) – Acts 20:21

When we are *glorifying* and *enjoying* God, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives:

- Clear Conscience (Romans 8:1)
- Life and Peace (Romans 8:6)
- Help with Weakness (Rom. 8:26)
- Purpose (Romans 8:28)
- Security (Romans 8:39)
- Power & Strength (Phil. 4:13)
- Fulfillment (Phil. 4:19)
- Freedom (John 8:32, 36)

What do I have to do to go to heaven?

Believe Christ. Trust Christ. Put your faith in Christ. Receive Christ. These are different ways of saying the same thing. If you have trusted Christ, you can express your faith in Him right now.

All have sinned and thus deserve the penalty for sin: eternal separation from God in hell. However, God loved us so much he allowed His Son to pay the penalty for us. But though Christ died for the whole world, the whole world will not go to heaven. God has made provision for us to escape our due penalty, but we must individually place our trust (or faith) in Jesus Christ as the payment for our sins. In other words, all that is required of us is to sincerely believe that the death of Christ alone is sufficient basis for God's forgiveness of us. Not Christ's death plus water baptism, or good works, or church attendance, or any other thing but faith in Christ alone.

Remember: The prayer doesn't save you. The words of the prayer don't save you, but your trust in Christ does. You are saved through your faith. Your prayer is an expression of your faith. Just because you didn't immediately feel different after saying a prayer doesn't mean it is not real. (Romans 10:13)

The Fallacy of Misunderstanding Repentance¹

Repentance means a genuine change of mind that affects the life in some way.

Unsaved people can truly repent but without being saved, as, for example to change the mind about a bad habit and to break that habit as a result.

Christians can repent of specific sins and stop doing them (Rev. 2:5).

And unsaved people can repent unto salvation. This saving repentance has to involve a change of mind about Jesus Christ so that whatever a person thought of Him before, he changes his mind and trusts Him to be his Savior. (Acts 2:38, 17:30, 2 Peter 3:9)

However, saving repentance may be preceded by a repentance concerning sin (which activates an individual's sense of need for forgiveness) or a repentance toward God (which alerts him to the fact that he has offended a holy God and therefore needs to appease Him). This aspect of repentance is still not saving unless it is accompanied by faith in Christ (Acts 20:21).

The Fallacy of Adding Baptism¹

Though an important Christ ordinance, baptism is not a part of the Gospel. To include it in the Gospel is to add a work to the grace of God.

The Fallacy of Making Surrender of Life a Part of the Gospel¹

Does one have to make Christ Lord of his life or be willing to do so in order to be saved?

Simply stated the question is: does the lack of commitment to the lordship of Christ over the years of one's life mean a lack of saving faith? Or, "Is 'faith' minus commitment a true biblical faith?"

Remember the life of Lot. It scarcely qualifies as an example of commitment at any point, yet the New Testament declares he was a righteous person (2 Peter 2:7).

The lordship view expressly states the necessity of acknowledging Christ as the Lord and Master of one's life in the act of receiving Him as Savior. But the lordship teaching fails to distinguish salvation from discipleship and makes requirements for discipleship prerequisites for salvation. Our Lord distinguished the two (Like 14:16-33).

Reference: ¹ *Basic Theology* by Charles C. Ryrie, pp. 335-339

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Fill in the Blank

knowing
loving
obeying
exalting