

## **THE GOSPEL YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER!**

***Therefore my people are gone into captivity because they have no knowledge.... – Isaiah 5:13***

Captivity to what? How can a “freed and forgiven” believer possibly be in “captivity”?  
**<WRONG THINKING ABOUT THE FULL BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL>**

**Captivity to: Doubting God’s Unconditional Love For You  
Guilt And Shame Over Past/Present Selfish Ways and Sins  
Fear of the Future  
Believing That The “Bad Parts About You” Will Never Change  
Believing God Does Not Desire To Use You Greatly  
A Uneventful, Depressing Christian Experience With No Deep Joy**

### **Gospel**

**What does Gospel mean?**

**Gospel**, as we say it, comes from the Saxon word, “Gode-Spell” — *Gode*, meaning “Good,” and *Spell*, meaning “Story or Tale” ... Thus, *Gode-Spell* means, “Good Story.” The original Biblical word, behind the word “Gospel” is *EUAGGELION* (Eu-Aggelion), where *Eu* (in classical Greek) means “well, in its kind;” and *Aggelo* (in classical Greek) means, “to bear a message, bring tidings or news, proclaim.” Thus, the verb *EUAGGELIZOMAI* means, **“TO BRING A MESSAGE OF GOOD NEWS.”**

In the 1st century, “gospel” was first used for the Roman religion: the Cult Of The Caesar. The emperor Caesar was worshipped as god in Rome’s state religion. So when the announcement of the Caesar’s birthday was made, or the accession of a new Caesar to the throne, the account of either event was announced by saying it was *EUAGGELION* or “bringing a message of good news.”

So, when Bible writers were announcing the GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION, they adopted the same word “*EUAGGELION*” on a whole new level: THE GOOD NEWS CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST, NAMELY, THAT HE DIED ON THE CROSS AND THUS BECOMES THE SAVIOR OF THE SINNER WHO PUTS THEIR FAITH IN HIM.

“For God came after us in Jesus Christ, and pursued us even to the desolate agony of the cross. There He took our place, bore our sin and died our death in order that we might be forgiven. Then he rose, ascended and sent the Holy Spirit, who is able to enter our personality and change us from within. If there is any better news for the human race than this, I for one have never heard it.” — ***The Gospel, by John Stott (p.22)***

“The gospel is the good news that God has accomplished our salvation for us through Christ in order to bring us into a right relationship with him and eventually destroy all the results of sin in the world.” — ***Shaped By The Gospel, by Timothy Keller (p. 33)***

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**“The Gospel is not just the ABC’s but the A to Z of the Christian life. It is inaccurate to think the gospel is what saves non-Christians, and then Christians mature by trying hard to live according to biblical principles. It is more accurate to say that we are saved by believing the gospel, and then we are transformed in every part of our minds, hearts, and lives by believing the gospel more and more deeply as life goes on (see Romans 12:1-2; I Phil. 1:6; 3:13-14)”**  
**—*Shaped By The Gospel*, by Timothy Keller (p. 65)**

“We would begin by telling the story of how Jesus came to us in a manger. God the Son came to us as a human being, a servant. He ate and drank with the poor, the marginalized, and the outcast. Theologians call this act the INCARNATION. (emphasis mine.)

Next , we tell the story of how Jesus died for us on a cross. God the Son saves us from our sins by dying in our place. This is an act of grace. We are saved not by our goodness but by this gift from God. Theologians call this act SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT. It is the salvation by grace described by New Testament writers: “All have sinned... all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:23-24)

Finally, we tell the story of how Jesus will come again as king. God the Son is coming again to renew this world. He will right all wrongs and wipe away every tear. The renewed life that we enjoy now in the gift of God’s Spirit will be enjoyed forever, more freely, in a renewed world. This is what theologians call RESTORATION. It is the consummation described by New Testament writers as, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord.” (Rev. 11:15) —***Evangelism In A Skeptical World*, by Sam Chan (p. 19-20)**

1. God created us
2. We have sinned against God
3. Jesus saves us from our punishment
4. We now have a decision to make

**For it is by grace [God’s remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God; not as a result of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast or take credit in any way [for his salvation]. —Ephesians 2:8-9**

So then... **WHAT EXACTLY IS FAITH?????**

Biblical **FAITH** is not less than **UNDERSTANDING** (Greek word, *notitia*) and **AGREEING & ASSENTING** (Greek word, *assensus*) to truths proposed to us in the Bible... BUT IT IS MORE THAN THAT...It ALSO requires **TRUST** (Greek word, *fiducia*) in JESUS as a Person. *And often trust in Jesus requires us to make a daring existential leap—to get out of our comfort zones and risk our possessions and our reputations.*