

The Gospel According to Scripture **By Greg Rangel**

What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ? What is it that saves us? And, how are we saved? Can we be saved by mans religious traditions, or a church, or because we were baptized as infants or adults? You ask these questions to many different people and you will perhaps get many different answers. Some of those answers might be based on Scripture itself. While others might be based on something they heard or perhaps on their own opinions. But what does the Bible say? That is what is most important.

Man can and will give you their answers and opinions to these questions and more. Unfortunately though, many of those answers are based on mans religious traditions and false doctrines. That is why many religious traditions exist. And as we have seen in the previous articles, every religion says that they have the true way to be saved because of some special formula that God gave only to them, or because they are the only true church of Jesus Christ, or however they might say it. And as we have also seen, it is ONLY Jesus that saves, and not man, or a church, or some religious traditions (see John 14:6), regardless of what man might say. According to the Scriptures there is only one true Gospel of Jesus. And it is His Gospel that saves. The Gospel of Jesus contains certain elements in which we must believe in order to believe in the true Gospel of Scripture. In other words, if there was a clear definition of the Gospel of Jesus what would that definition be? Paul the Apostle gave us such definition. In 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 Paul wrote; "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:"

The first truth that Paul wrote in the above passage was that Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures. The Second was that Jesus was buried, and the third was that He rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures. And the fourth was that He was seen. This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a nut shell. Apart from this Gospel there is none other.

If you noticed, Paul does not mention religious traditions as being part of the Gospel. He does not even mention baptism as being part of the Gospel. He sticks with what is essential to our salvation. To add anything like religious traditions or church dogmas to the Gospel of Jesus Christ causes the Gospel to be nothing but mans religious traditions. And what is believed is no longer the true Gospel but a watered down and deluded version of it, a Gospel that can no longer save because it has been corrupted by man.

Paul wrote in Galatians 1:6-9; "*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there*

be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Paul believed in the fact that there are false Gospels out there in which men believe in. That is why he wrote such things. And we too must be open to the fact that many people believe in what is called false Gospels because many people believe in man made doctrines. One of the greatest mistakes that people make when it comes to spiritual issues is that they ignorantly believe what they hear because it sounds good without ever reading and studying the Scriptures. Do you believe in the true Gospel? And how do you know that what you believe in is true?

Pastor Greg Rangel is the Pastor of Edification Calvary Chapel in Harlingen TX. You may reach him via email at gregrangel@msn.com. You can also get more information of his studies at edificationcalvarychapel.org.