## The Gospel of Christ

Son of God came to earth to become the Son of man, to die on the cross to pay for the sins of the world. He was buried and raised from the dead, 3 days later and now sits at the right Hand of God. All who believe on the name of Jesus and His Gospel- Good News, will not perish but have everlasting life; 1 Cor 15

To believe or not to believe:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

<sup>18</sup> "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." John 3:16-21

....whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life

God sent His Son into the world, because of His love for all. Do not make the mistake that His love is what saves us. What saves us is when we take and receive what He has provided for us to escape what is to come for us.

It is your sin, and mine that nailed Jesus to the cross. When we understand our part in His death, and acknowledge this to ourselves we will be able to acknowledge this before God.

## **Believe Jesus!**

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." John 1:15

- Believing not only who Jesus was and came to do but also our need for a Savior for our sins. In this acknowledgement, we repent. What does repent mean? It is when we change our mind in how we relate to sin, ours and generally, by turning from them no longer to live to serve them but making a definite change of heart, mind and way of life to begin serving God. Whether we realize this or not, we either serve sin, or we serve God there is no middle ground. When we serve one, we cannot at the same time serve the other. We are either remain dead in sin, or we become dead to sin. Our lives will reveal which it is we truly serve.
- Biblical believing means we believe that Jesus is not only our Savior but He becomes our Lord

\*Many make the mistake that since they believe that Jesus is the Son who came to earth to save us from our sins, they are counted as 'in.' This is not true as we see that 'even the demons believe – and tremble!' in <u>James 2:19</u>. It is when we can honestly say 'Jesus is Lord' and living by this when it is true believing unto Salvation. For Jesus to be Lord, we must repent of our sins and sinful ways.

## Receive Jesus!

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:38-39

- Once we have settled our way of thinking and believing and relationship with God and sin, we are ready to receive from the Lord His Spirit. We cannot go on with the Lord, unless we receive His Spirit, which is referred by Jesus as being 'born from above'; John 3:8.
- We will then be given understanding of what is Spiritual and become citizens of the Kingdom of God
- It is the Holy Spirit in us that gives to us the motivation in His righteousness and conviction of sin and as He leads us, we obey. Romans 8:14.
- We are awakened now, to a new battle that we must fight; the Spirit vs our Flesh and the
  World! Romans 6,7 &8. In fact, unless we 'reckon ourselves dead' (Rom 6:11) as Paul says, and
  Jesus refers to as 'deny yourself and daily live crucified' (Luke 9: 23) we cannot serve God in the
  Spirit;
- We will know that the Spirit has come into us, because He gives to us a new heart, which is full
  of love for the Lord and the willingness to love and serve and obey Him that goes beyond our
  fleshly intentions; Ez 36:25-27, 2 Cor 5:17

\*Today's 'gospel' skips the part where we must repent, so we have a large group of sincere believing people who profess that Jesus as Savior, but they cannot go on to have Him become their Lord. No matter how sincere we are, unless we repent of sin, self and the world – the Lord will not come in. This type of believer are those Jesus spoke and warned us about in many of His parables. Particularly those who cried out to Him, saying, 'Lord, Lord, have I not served in Your name!?' and His giving a bone chilling response – 'depart from Me for I never knew you!' It is the Holy Spirit in us, which gives us the capacity and allows us to know the Lord. Particularly, in the story of the ten virgins gives us a picture of those who are filled with the Holy Spirit opposed to those who are not. The foolish virgins, did what looked good and right, gathered together with other believers, and even had lamps, which is the light (of Christ) but they neglected a very important component and the reason for their refusal to enter in the wedding. They did not possess vessels with oil; which is a picture of the Holy Spirit.

## Live Jesus!

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Col 2:5-7

- Our new faith in Christ grants to us the ability to walk in the Spirit by faith in Christ, and His grace gives us the power to obey His commands.

- As Jesus has walked, His way is the narrow way and it is only few who walk it. Why? Because we no longer walk lives to serve ourselves, our lusts and sin nature. We no longer live lives that is the way the world(ly). We are now a 'peculiar' people, who will look different from the rest. Luke 9:23-25, 1 John 2:15-16, 1 Pet 2:9-10.

\*If we claim to be God's children, through believing in Jesus and we do not live lives that bear the fruit of this that is we live changeless lives – starting from our inner man – we are living a lie. We live in a day where our churches accepts what is unacceptable, where there is no accountability nor examination to those who live contrary lives, because no longer is the Word of God the Standard, but preferences, opinion and tolerance has taken its place.