

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL --

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Having grown up in an apostate Protestant church, I did not hear the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ. Even as an adult in my third decade, after I made that one time decision to trust in Jesus as my savior, I was amazed how the good news presentations were weak and diluted by words and phrases that do not even appear in the Bible. (A list of those phrases appears at the end of this document.) They were phrases that were stumbling blocks to my understanding of the way, the truth, and the life.

Since Johnny clearly teaches that the power of the church (the collective body of those who have placed their trust in Jesus for the erasing of their sins and receiving the gift of eternal life) determines whether our culture is dark or light (and the brightness thereof), clarification of what comprises the good news of Jesus Christ seems paramount. I pray that this collection of verses may reveal and/or enhance your understanding of The Good News of Jesus Christ!

Connie Tatum

Important points to know when presenting the good news of Jesus Christ:

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

The wages of sin is death – separated from God.

Jesus is God.

Jesus is our sin substitute. He took our sins upon Himself.

Jesus went to the cross and died in our place as our proxy.

Jesus took our penalty of separation for all eternity on our behalf.

Every person who makes a one-time decision to trust in Jesus as his savior has all his sins erased and receives the gift of eternal life.

For a thorough explanation of Jesus' actual substitutionary death, go to

“The Life of Jesus” series and listen to lessons #58 and #59.

The importance of using Scripture when presenting the good news of Jesus Christ

The word of the LORD is pure,
bringing faith into the soul. Psalm 19:8 (Johnny M Tatum translation)

The unfolding of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:130

I have more insight than all my teachers,
for Your testimonies are what I hum. Psalm 119:99 (JM Tatum)

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Psalm 119:89

You light my lamp;
the LORD my God illumines my darkness. Psalm 18:28

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the spoken voice of Christ.
Romans 10:17 (JM Tatum) {“remah” – the spoken voice of Christ through Holy Spirit}

O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me. Psalm 43:3

As for God, His way is blameless;
The word of the LORD is proven; Psalm 18:30 (JM Tatum)

Every word of God is tested and proven;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Do not add to His words
or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.
Proverbs 30:5-6 (JM Tatum)

He sent His word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destructions. Psalm 107:20

Sanctify them {set them apart} in the truth;
Your word is truth. John 17:17

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17

THE BAD NEWS:

(Understanding the bad news is necessary in order to understand the good news)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death Romans 6:23

“death” in the Bible never refers to extinction; the word means “separation” from God – true for all who do not trust Jesus as their savior.

“the second death”: those who appear before the Great White Throne judgment seat will be separated from God for all eternity

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all. James 2:10

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8

Therefore, just as through one man *{i.e., Adam}* sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God,”
They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds;
There is no one who does good. Psalm 14:1

For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. Titus 3:3

And He *{Jesus}* was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.” Mark 7:20-23

Now the deeds of the flesh are manifested in these ways: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, thinking stupidly, acting stupidly, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21 (JM Tatum)

THE GOOD NEWS:

*Jesus is God (holy and righteous),
the one and only person who can deliver a human being
from the ultimate consequences of his sin →*

SEPARATION FROM GOD FOR ALL ETERNITY IN HELL

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him
nothing came into being that has come into being.

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ...

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father,
full of grace and truth. John 1:1-4, 14

You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. John 8:32

Jesus said to him {Thomas}, "I am the way, the truth, the life;
no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:6

If you say Jesus is God, and trust with your will that God raised Him from the dead, you
will be saved; for one trusts with the will, producing righteousness, and one agrees {*i.e.*,
he is a sinner} producing salvation. Romans 10:9-10 (JM Tatum)

Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed;
save me and I will be saved. Jeremiah 17:14

They {Paul & Silas} said, "Trust in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. Acts 16:31

And to him who responds to what he knows {*i.e.*, "what he knows is true"}
I shall show the salvation of God." Psalm 50:23 (JM Tatum)

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,
so that we would die to sin and live to righteousness;
for by His wounds you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24

I have been crucified with Christ;
and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh I live
by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20

For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever
trusts in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

If we confess our sins {i.e., a one-time act}, He is faithful and righteous
to erase our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:8-9 (JM Tatum)

For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves,
it {faith} is a gift of God;
not as a result of works,
so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (JM Tatum)

In all things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other created thing,
will be able to separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord .
Romans 8:37-39

PROMISES FOR THOSE WHO TRUST JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOR:

No judgment for those in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 (JM Tatum)

BLESSINGS OF BEING IN GOD'S FAMILY

Thanks be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
just as He sets His affection upon us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

In love He predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters
through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
to the praise of the glory of His grace,
which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:3-6 (JM Tatum)

For God has not destined us for wrath,
but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us,
so that whether we are awake or asleep,
we will live together with Him. 1 Thessalonians 5:10

You are sealed by Holy Spirit – your Constant Companion:

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Constant Companion,
that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him,
but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

John 14: 16-17 (JM Tatum)

In {Jesus}, you also, after listening to the message of truth,
the gospel {*i.e.*, the good news} of your salvation—having also believed,
you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
who is given as a pledge of our inheritance. Ephesians 1:13-14

You will be raptured before the Great Tribulation:

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord,
will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,
with archangel voice and with the trumpet of God,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them
in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,
and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (JM Tatum)

... and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,
and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead,
that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1: 9b – 10

Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you
from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon
the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Revelation 3:10

You are complete in Jesus:

I thank my God always concerning you
for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,
that in everything you were enriched in Him,
in the word and also through personal knowledge,
even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,
so that you are not behind in any gift,
awaiting eagerly the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ, who
will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship
with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 (JM Tatum)

PROMISES FOR THOSE WHO REJECT THE TRUTH:

This is the judgment, that the Light {*i.e.*, Jesus} has come into the world,
and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. John 3:19

men who are hidden reefs ... pasturing themselves; ... without fear, caring for themselves;
clouds without water, carried along by winds;
autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted;
wild waves of the sea, casting up their own torment like foam;
wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.
Jude 12-13 (JM Tatum)

These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm,
for whom the black darkness has been reserved. 2 Peter 2:17

The Lord knows how ... to keep the unrighteous under punishment
for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh
in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. 2 Peter 2:9-10

By His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire,
kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:7

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it,
from whose presence earth and heaven fled away,
and no place was found for them.
And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne,
and books were opened; ... and the dead were judged
from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.
And the sea gave up the dead which were in it,
and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them;
and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.
Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.
This is the second death, the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-14

{Jesus:} "The sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness;
in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 8:12

SAMPLE PRAYER TRUSTING JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR:

Dear Heavenly Father,

According to Your word (the Bible),

I am a sinner.

I cannot save myself.

But I believe that because Jesus loved me,

He took my sins in His body,

He went to the cross

and died in my place – as my substitute.

I am putting my trust in You, Jesus, as my savior.

Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me, erasing my sins, and giving me eternal life.

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Ephesians 2:8-9

Galatians 2:20

1 Peter 2:24

Acts 16:31

John 14:6

Next: *“What the gospel is not”*

WHAT THE GOSPEL IS NOT:

“ASK JESUS IN YOUR HEART”

“COMMIT / GIVE / SURRENDER YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST”

“TURN FROM YOUR SINS”

“MAKE JESUS LORD OF YOUR LIFE”

“BE WILLING TO FOLLOW JESUS IN OBEDIENCE”

‘ASK JESUS IN YOUR HEART’

Rather: Ask Jesus to be YOUR savior.

If you say Jesus is God,
and trust with your will that God
raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (JMT)

‘COMMIT / GIVE / SURRENDER YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST’

Note: This implies some kind of vague ritual = a work of the flesh.

Rather: Jesus, I choose to place my trust in You as my savior.
I know that you died on the cross in my place,
taking the punishment for my sins.

“Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” Acts 16:31

‘TURN FROM YOUR SINS’

Rather: Turn to Jesus – THE way, THE truth, THE life –
no one comes to the Father except through Jesus. John 14:6

‘MAKE JESUS LORD OF YOUR LIFE’

Note: Another command that implies some kind of ritual / work of the flesh.
He is / always has been Lord, even Lord of lords.

Rather: Totally scrap this one.

"BE WILLING TO FOLLOW JESUS IN OBEDIENCE"

Note: This implies continuous focus on the performance of your flesh.

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit,
are you now being perfected by the flesh? Galatians 3:3

Rather:

for God is the one bringing it about in you,
both the desire and the doing of what pleases Him.
Philippians 2:13 (JM Tatum)

Explanation of the verse: This verse states clearly that, since we do not have the ability to please Him or the desire to please Him, God takes it upon Himself to produce our desire. He also takes upon Himself the responsibility to produce the desired results in our lives. (JM Tatum)