

The Gospel

Paul states in Romans 1:16: "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation." Today, most Christians think the word "gospel" is just a word that identifies religious things. In Paul's day, it was a radical way of referring to the grace of God as the means of obtaining right standing with Him.

The Gospel is the "good news," that despite our sins and the judgment we deserve, God has provided complete redemption for us through Jesus. Even more specifically, the word "gospel" describes the grace that enables us to receive this forgiveness. The Gospel is the power of God. It is what produces the life of God in people. **The gospel of salvation is all about God's faithfulness, not ours!**

In the Bible, all sin is reckoned as a debt. When a man sins, say, by stealing, the law reckons his sin as a debt to be paid to his victim. This is called restitution. The principle of redemption must be understood within the same context. To redeem someone is to redeem their debt note. Jesus came to redeem us from our sins. That is, He paid the full payment of restitution required for our sins.

God does not acquit the guilty by repealing His law; He acquits the guilty by upholding the law and paying its full penalty Himself. Jesus upheld the law upheld when He died on the Cross to pay the full penalty that it had prescribed for our sins. The law has been fully satisfied because the full debt has been paid.

The Gospel is the good news that Jesus already paid the full penalty for your sins, and that God Himself gives you the grace and faith to accept His provision. The power that we need to get saved and obtain everything that Jesus provided for us is included in the Gospel. Under the New Covenant that Jesus put into effect, right standing with God comes as a free gift to everyone who will believe (Rom. 4:3-5, 5:18).

"Evangelion (that we call the gospel) is a Greek word; and signifieth good, merry, glad and joyful tidings, that maketh a man's heart glad, and maketh him sing, dance, and leap for joy: as when David had killed Goliath the giant, came glad tidings unto the Jews, that their fearful and cruel enemy was slain, and they delivered out of all danger: for gladness whereof, they sung, danced, and were joyful. In like manner is the Evangelion of God (which we call gospel; and the New Testament) joyful tidings; and, as some say, a good hearing published by the apostles throughout all the world, of Christ the right David; how that he hath fought with sin, with death, and the devil, and overcome them: whereby all men that were in bondage to sin, wounded with death, overcome of the devil, are, without their own merits or deservings, loosed, justified, restored to life and saved, brought to liberty and reconciled unto the favor of God, and set at one with him again: which tidings as many as believe laud, praise, and thank God; are glad, sing and dance for joy."

William Tyndale William Tyndale, *A Pathway into the Holy Scripture*, 1531