

LIVING THE GOSPEL

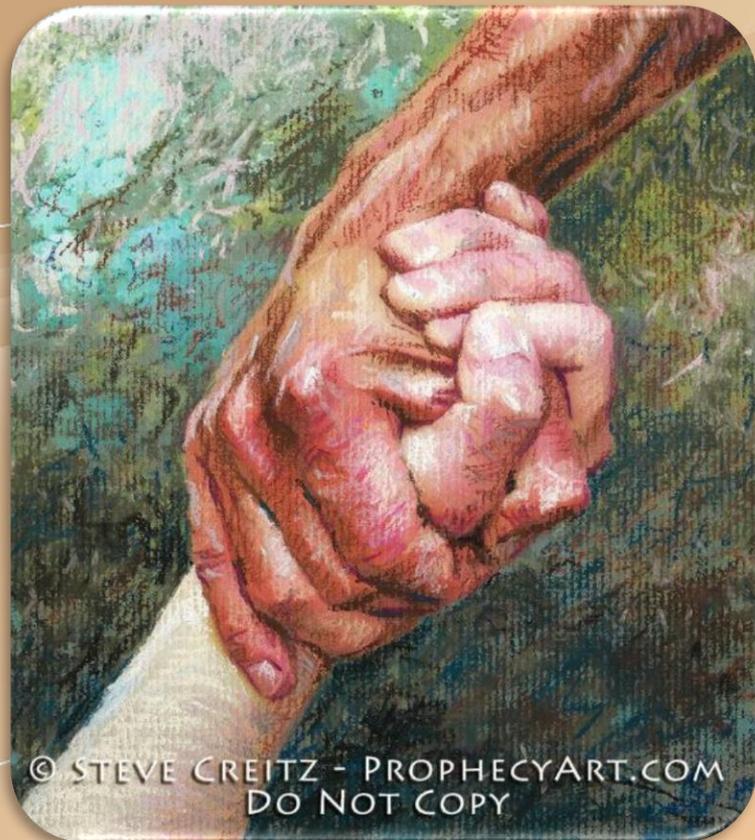


Lesson 10 for September 7, 2019

The gospel is the good news of salvation. God offers salvation freely.

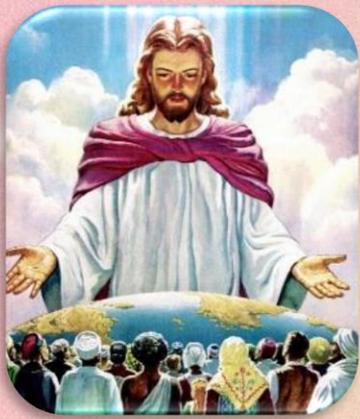
The gospel is practical. It's not possible to accept the gospel and to remain unchanged.

Our thoughts and actions change, so how should we live the gospel?



-  **The gospel of love**
-  **Gospel and sin**
-  **Gospel and good works**
-  **Inclusive gospel**
-  **The eternal gospel and acts of kindness**

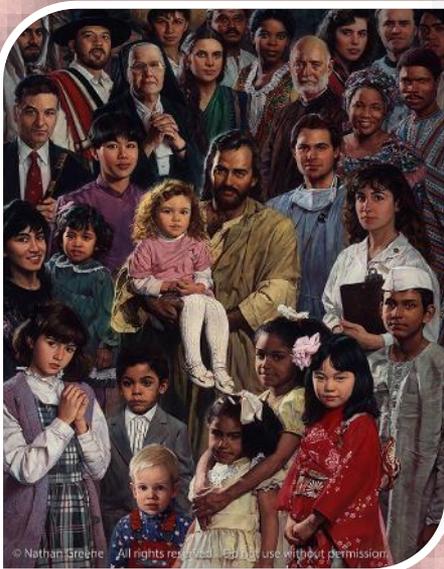
THE GOSPEL OF LOVE



"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." (John 3:16)

The foundation of the gospel is love. Not our love, but God's.

God's love moves Him to lavish His blessings on everyone, both the good and the evil (Matthew 5:45).



God loves everyone, including those who haven't accepted the gospel.

He loves those whom we love, and He also loves those whom we dislike and those who have harmed us.

We become channels of God's love when we share the gospel with them.

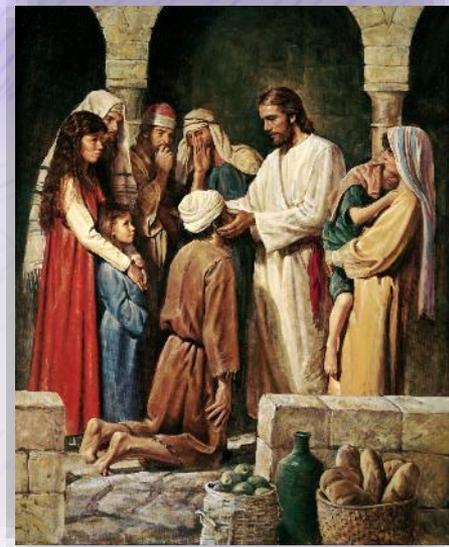
GOSPEL AND SIN

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick." (Matthew 14:14)



When Jesus saw illness, pain and death, "Jesus wept." (John 11:35)

The terrible consequences of sin are very noticeable everywhere in this world.



Many times it's the sin of specific people which gives bitter fruits.

The old prophets grumbled, moaned and cried because of the selfishness, greed, injustice and wickedness of people (Psalm 35; Jeremiah 9).



The first step towards change is to accept the gospel and to repent and forsake our sins. Love and compassion become the norm for those who accept the gospel. They relieve the disastrous consequences of sin.



GOSPEL AND GOOD WORKS



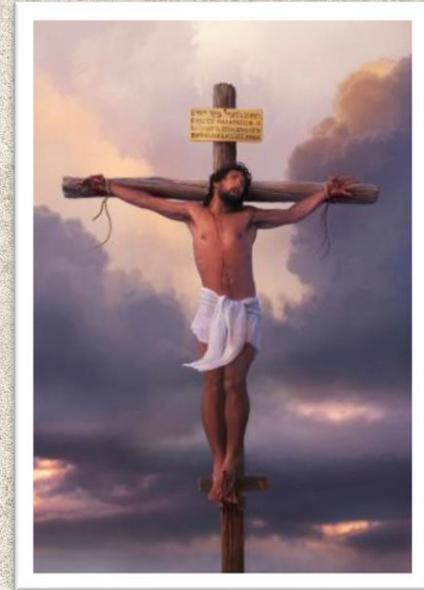
"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

Paul stated that we are saved by grace, "not by works." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

We cannot add anything to the sacrifice of Jesus. There's no work we can do to deserve or pay for our redemption.

When we accept God's grace, we are "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." In other words, we are God's instruments to heal and restore the damage and suffering in other people's lives.

We care for others because we reflect God's love for us (1 John 3:16-17).



INCLUSIVE GOSPEL

"In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us." (Colossians 3:11 NLT)

The church was called to preach the gospel to the world (Acts 1:8). It took them a while to understand this.

The church eventually accepted the inclusion of everyone in the gospel.

Why does the gospel include everyone?



EVERYONE has a Father: God (Malachi 2:10)



EVERYONE is a descendant of Adam and Eve (Acts 17:26)

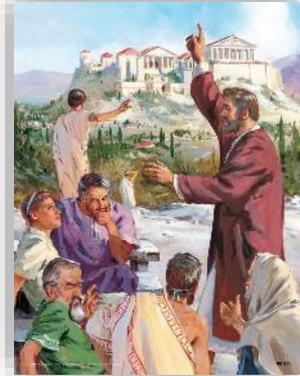


EVERYONE has sinned (Romans 3:23)



EVERYONE is one in Christ (Galatians 3:28)

Everyone has the right to receive the blessings of the gospel. Don't decide whom you should serve, just go and serve everyone.



THE ETERNAL GOSPEL AND ACTS OF KINDNESS

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.'" (Revelation 14:6-7)

The proclamation of the Gospel in the End Time will stress three points that show how God is concerned about evil, poverty and oppression:

Judgement. God hears the cry of the oppressed and He will do justice



Worship. The worship God wants to receive is expressed through acts of kindness to the poor and those in need (Isaiah 58:6-7)



Creation. We've been created in His image, we must not oppress others



In the End Time, God will have a people who proclaim the gospel and stand up for justice in a sinful world.



“When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden. Its holy influence will be felt by all with whom we come in contact. The spirit of Christ in the heart is like a spring in the desert, flowing to refresh all and making those who are ready to perish, eager to drink of the water of life.

Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. It will lead to love, tenderness, and sympathy toward all the creatures of our heavenly Father’s care.”

E.G.W. (Steps to Christ, cp. 9, p. 77)