

Obedience To The Gospel

Growing In Gospel Living: Shelf 2 — Volume 14

~ Humanity Was Created By God ~

1. Genesis 1:1,26,27: God is the CREATOR of humanity and all things. There is only ONE God who is three in existence: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

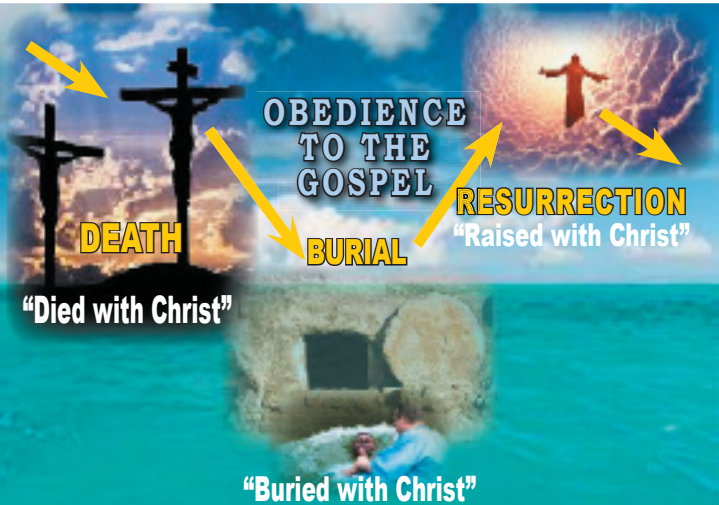


▶ **READ:** Isaiah 40:21-31; Romans 1:18-32

Because God is the Creator of humanity, He inspires worship and expects obedience from all people in response to His love that was revealed through the gospel.

READ: Micah 6:8; John 4:23,24; 1 John 5:2

- **T or F:** When one recognizes that there is one true and living God who is our Creator, then one should not have to be commanded to worship God.



~ All People Have Sinned ~

2. Romans 3:9,10,23: All people have sinned against God. If one says that he or she has not sinned, then God says that person is a liar. Because of our voluntary and individual sin against God, we live in a state of separation from God, and thus we live in a state of condemnation.

▶ **READ:** 1 John 1:8-10

● **T or F:** If there were no God, then there would be no concept of sin.

~ Spiritual Condemnation In Sin ~

3. 1 John 3:4: SIN BY TRANSGRESSION: Sin is not doing what God has commanded us to do in His word. Sin is also doing what God has told us not to do. Each person is personally accountable before God for his or her own sin.

▶ **READ:** Ezekiel 18:4,9,20-24; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 1:5-10

4. James 4:17: SIN BY NEGLIGENCE: Sin is not doing what one knows to be defined as a biblical principle of moral good.

▶ **READ:** Matthew 25:41-46; Galatians 6:10

● **T or F:** If we recognize our sinful moral behavior, then we must seek a way to take care of our sin problem.

~ All People Are Spiritually Dead ~

5. Isaiah 59:1,2: SEPARATION from God is the result of sin in our lives. In a state of being separated from our Creator, we must seek to be restored (reconciled) to God in order to be saved from the destruction to come.

▶ **READ:** Isaiah 1:15,16; Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:19



6. Romans 6:23: DEATH is the result of being separated from God because of sin. In sin, all people are in a state of eventual condemnation and eternal termination.

READ: Romans 8:1; Ephesians 2:1-3; Galatians 3:22

- **T or F:** It is not possible for one who is spiritually dead in sin to live in a close relationship with the One (God) against whom one sins.

SPIRITUAL DEATH

7. Romans 5:12: Spiritual death is separation from God because of sin. Spiritual death was introduced into the world by Adam because he was the first person to sin. Adam personally suffered the **guilt** of spiritual death for his own sin because he ate of the forbidden fruit. All people suffer the guilt of their own sin because all personally sin.

- ▶ **READ:** Romans 3:9,10,23; Ephesians 2:1-3,12; James 1:14,15

PHYSICAL DEATH

8. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22: Physical death was introduced into the world when Adam and Eve were the first to sin personally by eating of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. They were subsequently driven from the Tree of Life. The **consequence** of Adam's separation from the Tree of Life was that all humanity after him, as Adam's physical heritage, was also separated from this source of eternal life. Because all people are now separated from the Tree of Life, all of us must physically die.

- ▶ **READ:** Genesis 3:22-24; Hebrews 9:27

- **T or F:** Each person on earth must suffer the guilt of Adam's sin.
- **T or F:** There were no consequences that came upon humanity because of Adam's sin.

9. Titus 2:11: The good news (gospel) of the grace of God was revealed to the world through the sacrificial offering of the Son of God who was offered for our sins on the cross.

- READ:** John 1:1,2,14-17; 3:16; Ephesians 2:4-10

10. Galatians 2:16: Since it is not possible for any person to live without sinning, God, through His grace, sent His Son into this world as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Since it is not possible to atone for our sins with good works of merit, the Son of God had to make atonement for us on the cross of Calvary.



► **READ:** Romans 3:20-31; 5:6-11

- **T or F:** Because we were created by God, then God was obligated to send His Son as a sacrifice on the cross for our sins.

~ Hope Of A Better Life ~

11. Ephesians 1:3: Since no one can be saved without God's grace, everyone must individually respond with obedient faith to the gospel (good news) in order to come **INTO CHRIST**. All those who respond by obedience to the good news of Jesus will receive all **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**, and thus salvation in Christ.

READ: Mark 16:15,16; Romans 6:3-6; Ephesians 2:1-10; 2 Peter 3:9

- **T or F:** All spiritual blessings from God in reference to our salvation are accessed when one comes into Christ.

12. Ephesians 1:7: **REDEMPTION** from the bondage of sin by the **BLOOD** of Jesus is enjoyed by those who are **IN CHRIST**.

► **READ:** Romans 3:24,25; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Hebrews 9:12-15

13. Colossians 1:13,14: **FORGIVENESS** of all our past sins, and the continual cleansing of sin in this life are **IN CHRIST**.

► **READ:** Acts 5:31; 13:38; Colossians 2:13; 1 John 1:7-9

- **T or F:** When one is redeemed out of the bondage of sin, he or she is obligated to do good works in order to repay God for His grace.

14. Romans 8:1: Those who are **IN CHRIST** are in a covenant relationship with God wherein there is **NO CONDEMNATION** and eventual destruction, because of the cleansing blood of Jesus.

► **READ:** John 5:24; 1 John 3:14,16

15. 2 Corinthians 5:17: Because one is washed by the blood of Jesus, he or she is a **NEW CREATURE**, and in fellowship with all those who have likewise been baptized **INTO CHRIST**.

▶ **READ:** Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:17-24

- **T or F:** When one is outside Christ, then he or she is living in a state of condemnation because he or she has no solution for sin.

16. 1 John 5:11: **ETERNAL LIFE**, or existence forever, is given to all new creatures who are **IN CHRIST**.

▶ **READ:** Matthew 25:31-46; John 10:27,28

17. 2 Timothy 2:10: As a result of having all spiritual blessings that are **IN CHRIST**, one will be **SAVED** from the impending destruction that is coming.

▶ **READ:** Ephesians 1:9-13

Since all **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS** are for those who are **IN CHRIST**, then there are no spiritual blessings for those who are **OUTSIDE CHRIST**. Therefore, all people must come into Christ where they are washed of their sins, and thus have all spiritual blessing. In order to understand what God requires of our faith in response to His grace, we must consult His word for instructions.

▶ **READ:** John 6:45; 8:31,32; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 1 Peter 1:22-25

- **T or F:** When one is baptized into Christ, he or she comes into contact with the cleansing blood of the sacrificial Son of God.
- **T or F:** One can obtain forgiveness of sins by believing only in Christ while outside Christ living in sin.

~ **Salvation Depends On Obedience** ~

18. Mark 1:14,15: God desires that all people respond to Jesus as His Son who came in the flesh of man for the salvation of all people.

► **READ:** Acts 2:22-36; John 8:24; 20:30,31; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 11:6

19. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9: Jesus is coming again! He will cast into destruction from the presence of God all those who have not **obey the gospel** (the good news).



► **READ:** Acts 17:30,31; 1 Peter 4:17

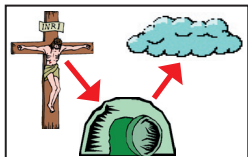
THEREFORE,

**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?
HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL?**

- **T or F:** Since Jesus will destroy those when He comes who do not obey the gospel, then we must assume that there are commandments one must obey in reference to the gospel.
- **T or F:** When Jesus comes again, people will be saved from destruction on the basis of their good works.

THE GOSPEL

20. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: Verses 1,2: The central message of the **GOSPEL** is the historical event of the atoning sacrifice of the incarnate Son of God. This gospel was first **PREACHED** and **RECEIVED** by people on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. In obedience to this first announcement of the revealed grace of God, people were saved when they obediently responded. **Verses 3,4:** The core of the gospel is the atoning **DEATH** of the Son of God on the cross for our sins. It is His **BURIAL** and **RESURRECTION** to give us hope that we, too, in response to the gospel, will likewise be resurrected when Jesus comes again. Jesus was resurrected and ascended to the right hand of God where He was coronated King of kings. He is now our **MEDIATOR, HIGH PRIEST** and **KING**.



► **READ:** Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 3:1; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:1

- **T or F:** The gospel is the combination of several historical events that took place in the life of the Son of God in order to offer people an opportunity to be saved from their sins.
- **T or F:** The word of God, the Bible, is a written record of all the historical events of the gospel.

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

21. Romans 6:3-6: Verse 3 : In order to come into a saving relationship with God in Christ, one must be baptized in response to the gospel. **Verses 4,5:** Since Jesus was crucified and buried for us, we must likewise crucify ourselves and be buried in a tomb of water in order to contact His cleansing blood. We are then raised with Him to walk in the light as He is in the light. **Verse 6:** Before Jesus went to the tomb, He went to the cross. Before we go to the water in baptism, we, too, must go to the cross with Jesus. One is thus crucified with Him as a penitent believer who will be raised with Him in newness of life.



► **READ:** Romans 6:7-23; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4;

► **RESEARCH:** Acts 2:41-47; 8:5-17; 8:30-39; 9:17,18; 10:34-48; 16:13-15; 16:25-34; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16; **STUDY: Faith:** John 8:24; Mark 16:15,16; Hebrews 11:6; **Repentance:** Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 2 Peter 3:9; **Confession:** Matthew 10:32,33; Romans 10:9,10; 1 Timothy 6:12; **Baptism:** Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16; John 4:1-5; 1 Peter 3:21

- **T or F:** In baptism (immersion) one is responding to the sacrificial death of Jesus for our sins, His burial, His glorious resurrection for our hope, ascension and kingdom reign.

~ Cost Of Obedience To The Gospel ~

22. Luke 14:25-35: Being a disciple of Jesus means living the example of Jesus for others. Before making a commitment to live the crucified life, therefore, one must consider seriously the sacrifices he or she must make in order to live in response to the gospel.

▶ **READ:** Matthew 10:34-39; John 13:1-17; Philippians 3:7-14

- **T or F:** Since Jesus went to the cross for us, then there is no need for us to live a sacrificial life for Him.

~ God Adds Us To The Church ~

23. Matthew 16:18,19: During His earthly ministry, Jesus prophesied that He would build His church of obedient disciples on the fact that they would believe that He was the Christ and Son of God.

▶ **READ:** John 14:15; 15:13

24. Acts 2:36-47: Thousands obeyed the gospel on the day of Pentecost when the kingdom reign of Jesus was first announced on that day. God added to the fellowship of His people those who obeyed the gospel by immersion into Christ. The church of Christ began when penitent believers were added by God to the body of believers after they were immersed for remission of their sins.

▶ **READ:** Acts 5:14; Galatians 3:26-29

- **T or F:** When one responds to the gospel, then he or she must make a decision to live in response to the gospel.
- **T or F:** Upon obedience to the gospel, God adds one to the universal body of believers around the world.

~ Body Of Obedient Believers ~

Gospel Identity

25. Romans 16:16: There is no specific name given to the fellowship of God's people. Christians are blessed by God with unity because of their common obedience to the gospel. They are one universal fellowship as the body of Christ.

▶ **READ:** Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 12:12-31; Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:19; 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 5:2,3

- **T or F:** Unity among baptized believers is inherent in one's obedience to the gospel.

Gospel Covenant

26. 1 Corinthians 12:12: Those who are added by God to the one universal body of Christ are identified with names and phrases that explain who and what they are in their covenant relationship with God.

► **READ:** Acts 11:26; Romans 1:7; 8:16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 1:1; 5:8; 1 Peter 2:5,9,17; 4:16

- **T or F:** There are no conditions one must keep in order to establish and maintain a covenant relationship with God.

Gospel Worship

27. John 4:21-24: In contrast to traditional religionists who seek to worship God according to their own desires and traditions, Christians seek to worship God according to the guidance of His word.

► **READ:** Mark 7:1-9; Acts 17:23-31; Romans 12:1,2; Colossians 2:23



- **T or F:** Those who have obeyed the gospel seek to worship God according to His instructions.

Gospel Fellowship

28. Romans 12:1,2: In giving their lives daily as a sacrifice in service to the reigning King Jesus, Christians **sing spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), **pray in thanksgiving** (Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17), **give to others** (Galatians 6:10), **assemble together** (Hebrews 10:24,25; 1 Corinthians 16:19), **fellowship with one another around the Supper of the Lord** (Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-23), **teach the word of God** (Acts 2:41; 5:42), and **preach the gospel to the world** (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 8:4).

► **READ:** Romans 12:10-13; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 4:15; Colossians 3:17

- **T or F:** When we live the gospel, such living inherently produces unity among all those who have obeyed the gospel.

Gospel Ministries

29. Mark 10:42-45: Christians are servants to one another and their communities. As servants to others, they seek to reflect the spirit of Jesus Christ wherever they live. Some are evangelists who preach the gospel to the lost (2 Timothy 4:2,5). Some are shepherds who care specifically for the flock of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9; 1 Peter 5:2,3). Some are in special ministries of service (Acts 6:1-7; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-12). All are servants to everyone (Galatians 6:10; James 1:27).

► **READ:** Luke 22:24-30; John 13:1-17; 1 Corinthians 16:15,16

- **T or F:** When people obey the gospel, they are subsequently blessed with the same gifts to minister to one another, as well as proclaim the gospel to the world.

Gospel Mission

30. Matthew 28:19,20: Every disciple has a mission to proclaim the good news to the world, for each disciple realizes that only through faith and obedience to the gospel of Jesus can one be saved.

► **READ:** Mark 16:15,16; Acts 5:42; 4:12,20; 8:4-12; 2 Timothy 4:1,2

- **T or F:** Inherent in the good news (the gospel) is the message that the gospel must be proclaimed worldwide.

Gospel Living

31. 2 Corinthians 4:15: Christians minister to others because Jesus ministered to them in delivering them from the condemnation that was inherent in sin. The grace by which they were delivered from the condemnation to come motivates them to serve and preach the gospel.

► **READ:** Matthew 7:15-23; 25:31-40; 2 Corinthians 5:11; 1 John 4:19

- **T or F:** God's grace causes the gospel responsive person to in turn proclaim the gospel of God's grace to others.

Gospel Hope

32. Revelation 14:13: Christians have been saved from the future destruction by the grace of God. Their salvation, therefore, is not based on any self-sanctifying meritorious good works, or a supposed perfect keeping of any law.

► **READ:** Romans 3:30; 5:1,2; 1 Corinthians 3:8,14; Ephesians 2:4-10; Philippians 2:12,13; Colossians 2:18; 3:23,24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- **T or F:** Since one's salvation is a free gift from God that is based on His grace, then it is not earned by doing good works or performing correctly religious rites and ceremonies.

~ INVITATION OF JESUS ~

33. Matthew 11:28-30: Jesus offers the opportunity to every person to come to Him for the redemption that He offered on the cross. God is not willing that any person should perish forever, and thus, He seeks to bring everyone into His eternal presence through their obedient response to the sacrificial offering of His Son on the cross of Calvary.



► **READ:** John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 3:20



FOR YOUR GROUP DISCUSSIONS

1. What right does God have in reference to His creation concerning the giving of law?
2. Because all people have sinned, to what must we now turn in reference to the forgiveness of sins?
3. In what general areas do all people sin?
4. What does it mean that people throughout history do not inherit the guilt of Adam's sin?
5. What does it mean that sin leads to physical death?
6. What does the metaphor "in Christ" mean?
7. What does the metaphor "redemption" mean?
8. Why is one in condemnation outside Christ?
9. What does it mean to "obey the gospel"?

10. Why is the gospel defined as historical events?
11. Why is the New Testament a report of the gospel?
12. When one obeys that gospel with a historical event in one's personal life, how does his or her life change?
13. What are the blessings of responding to the gospel?
14. What is the new hope of all those who respond to the gospel?

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