

LESSON FIVE

The Center of the Gospel— Jesus Christ

Scripture Reading:

- Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- Rom. 1:2-4 [The gospel of God], which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacle among us...full of grace and reality.
- Rom. 10:9-13 That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes on Him shall not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him; for "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
- John 7:37-39 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- 1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

Hymn 1024

I. What is the gospel?

- A. The gospel is not earthly or material blessings.
- B. The gospel is not outward success and well-being.
- C. The gospel is not some systematic doctrines.
- D. The gospel is not a cultivation or exhortation for doing good.
- E. The gospel is the glad tidings, the good news.
- F. The gospel is a living Person—Jesus Christ, the Son of God—Mark 1:1; Rom. 1:3-4.
- G. The gospel is the life-giving Spirit—Gal. 3:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b.

II. The central content of the gospel is the person and work of Jesus Christ—Rom. 1:2-4; John 3:16; 1:4, 14; 10:10b:

- A. Christ is God becoming man; He is God yet man, having both divinity and humanity.
 - 1. He is the complete God with the divine life and the power of resurrection, able to resurrect from the dead and to release and dispense His divine and eternal life into us—John 12:24.
 - 2. He is the perfect, sinless man, a genuine man with flesh and blood, so He could be judged on behalf of man and died and shed His blood to accomplish redemption for man—2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:18; John 1:29; 1 John 1:9; 2:2; 2 Cor. 5:14.
- B. Christ's death and resurrection solve all the problems of fallen man:
 - 1. The problem of sin must be solved by death.
 - a. Christ died on the cross, bearing God's judgment on sin—Heb. 9:22, 27; Isa. 53:6; 1 John 2:2; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18.
 - b. The death of Christ on the cross terminated man's life of sin and condemned sin—Rom. 8:3.
 - 2. The problem of death must be solved by the resurrection life of Christ:
 - a. Christ's resurrection proves that God accepted His work of redemption—Rom. 4:25.
 - b. In resurrection, Christ became the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b.
- C. "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"—Rom. 10:9.

III. The Spirit with its dispensing is the means of the gospel and the process of gospel preaching—Gal. 3:8, 14:

- A. The Spirit is the processed and consummated Triune God—John 7:37-39:
 - 1. Incarnation—to tabernacle among man—John 1:1, 14.
 - 2. Human living—to express God in humanity.
 - 3. Crucifixion—to accomplish redemption and remove all barriers between God and man—Heb. 10:19-20.
 - 4. Resurrection—to become the life-giving Spirit to enter into man—1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - 5. Ascension—made both Lord and Christ to become our heavenly high priest—Acts 2:36; Heb. 7:14-16.
 - 6. Today, the Lord as the Spirit is dear and convenient, just like air and water.
- B. The Spirit is dispensing Himself into us:
 - 1. For us to receive the divine and eternal life—John 10:10b, John 3:16.
 - a. Life has different levels: plant life, animal life, human life, and divine life.
 - b. Human life is the highest among the created life, but because of the fall, it became short, vain, helpless, and full of greed, lust, pride, and anger.
 - c. The divine life is the highest life, the uncreated, incorruptible, indestructible, self-existing and ever-existing life—Heb. 7:16.

2. For us to become the children of God and members of the household of God—John 1:12, 13; Eph. 2:12, 19.
 3. For us to be transformed and conformed to the image of God's Son and be glorified—Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29, 30.
 4. For us to receive love, light, truth, freedom, and power that we may be satisfied, joyful, and overflow to others—John 1:4, 8; 8:32, 34, 36; 4:13-14; 7:37-38; 1 John 1:4; 4:8.
- C. Through calling on the Lord and praying and singing to Him, we experience and enjoy the dispensing of the Spirit—Rom. 10:9, 13; 1 Cor. 12:13, 3.

Supplement:

How to Lead People to Salvation within 15 Minutes (i.e., On a Taxi):

Believing into the Lord Jesus Is Very Simple,

Just Like Saying One, Two, Three

- I. **“One” means the one unique true God: the God that Christians believe in is the God revealed by the Bible, who is the unique true God, the Creator and Administrator of the universe.**
- II. **“Two” means that this God has two “becomings”:**
 - A. God “became” a man named Jesus, who lived on the earth for thirty three and a half years and then went to the cross to die for the redemption of our sins.
 - B. In resurrection, Jesus, who is the last Adam, “became” the life-giving Spirit to dispense Himself into those who believe and receive Him.
- III. **“Three” means that this processed God as the consummated Spirit desires to dispense Himself into the spirit, soul, and body of the tripartite men, that their spirit may be regenerated, their soul may be transformed, and their body may be glorified.**
- IV. **Believing into the Lord Jesus is to receive Him into us through calling upon His name and praying to Him.**