

"THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST"

I. The Gospel

The Greek word for *gospel* is *euangelion* (Engl. – evangel). According to *Vines Expository Dictionary*, it means good news, good message, or "the good tidings of the kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ, to be received by faith, on the basis of His expiatory death, His burial, resurrection, and ascension."

Read the following Scriptures and comment on what they explain regarding the *gospel*.

A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Galatians 1:6-8

Acts 2:22-24

Romans 1:16-17

B. There is a *gospel call* that is both external to man and internal. The external *gospel call* is also known as the general or *universal call*. Theologian Wayne Grudem writes, "This universal or general *gospel call* comes through human speech...is offered to all people, even those who do not accept it." Read Matthew 13:18-23 and discuss how the *universal gospel call* is reflected in the sowing of seeds.

C. There is a *gospel call* that is internal and which corresponds to the *universal call*. This is the *effectual call* of the gospel. Wayne Grudem explains in regard to this effectual, internal call of the gospel:

"No powerless, merely human calling is in view. This calling is rather a kind of 'summon' from the King of the universe and it as such power that it brings about a response that it asks for in people's hearts. It is an act of God that guarantees a response."

Read Matthew 13:18-23 and discuss which soil depicts the *effectual call*.

25



How does Romans 8:30 reflect the *effectual call*?

Are the *universal call* and the *effectual call* two completely separate and distinct *gospel calls*?

- D. It is important to understand what one must know in order to be saved. The following Scriptures outline the basic facts (the bare minimum) necessary for one to be saved. State what each verse declares.

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 10:9-10

- E. The gospel message itself is quite simple, yet many stumble over it. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 and discuss why a message as simple as the gospel is not understood by many, if not by most who hear it.

- F. Questions for further consideration:

1. Is it possible for someone to believe that he is a Christian and yet be unconverted?

2. The term 'gospel' is used rather loosely in churches today. Is it proper to use the term 'gospel' to describe anything other than Christ's death, burial, and resurrection?

