

The Aspects of the True Gospel

We come to the sacrifice to give our bodies, which contains our new life, up to our Father. 1 Ths 5:23 — Our spirit, soul, and body are totally set apart for Him, nothing else. Our soul is not being lifted up to an idol, a worthless thing, or anything that we derive pleasure from that doesn't do anything for our Father, is not useful to Him, not pertaining to Him.

We are totally His, not the world's. The world is the state of death, the state where life has ceased. Our Father even loved us in that state of death, but we have nothing more to do with that state except to evangelize it. Baptism is a place where you bury dead things — we get rid of that dead useless life we had, terminate it. But we cannot do that until we know Messiah, until the Holy Spirit reveals Him to us. Then we can terminate our life and receive a new one.

It is our *new* life we are sacrificing, not our old life, for we separate ourselves from it. It is like dung; we consider it dead. That is the work of a disciple, to consider that old life dead. Don't put your mind on the old life you had — it is dead. Put your mind on the Spirit and live for Him — spirit, soul and body sanctified and lifted up to our Master. We lift up our bodies to Him. This means that we lift up the embodiment of us. It means that we are not lifting ourselves to anything that does not pertain; we are not doing anything that we do not have the blessing of the Holy Spirit to do. We are only doing things that are building up and not tearing down, living only for Him.

We are serving and worshipping God — serving — it is true worship, true service. There are works of service that we are being qualified for now (Eph 4:12). Our Father knew what works of service we would do. Our Father knew that Yahshua would be a Lamb slain for us. It is all in a predetermined plan. He knew he would have to do it for us because we are sinners, having done things that are not right, so we could be brought back to Him.

Believing in Vain

1 Cor 15:1-5 speaks about believing in vain. We would not want to believe in vain. In the New Testament you see a lot of people who believed, but it was in vain that they believed because they *only* believed. Jn 7:12-13 — They believed, but for fear of the Pharisees they would not openly confess Yahshua. Jn 2:23-24 — They believed, but Yahshua would not commit Himself to them. It was because He knew it was an intellectual belief but it was not a belief in the heart. Before we are baptized, we have to believe in our heart. All Christians believe in their mind, but not in the heart, so they cannot obey the other requirements of the gospel. There is no way they can obey, for there is also no context, no environment for them to obey.

You see in the comprehensive gospel that the first requirement is that we must believe. This is the most essential requirement. There are many aspects, facets, of the gospel. It is recorded in four books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — the whole, complete gospel is there. The whole gospel is not that Yahshua died on the cross and rose again and ascended into heaven. Certainly this is essential, but it is not the whole gospel. No one can believe when you say that He died and went to heaven. It does not make sense to people if you don't tell them the rest of the gospel. Otherwise they wonder what did He *die* for? So you have to explain who He was, what He did, the Old Testament sacrificial system, how He was the Lamb of God, how people would lay their hands on the animals. It was the choice of all the flock. If it wasn't the best, it would not have been accepted. It had to be pitied and petted and loved or it would not have been a sacrifice to them. A sacrifice is only of the most precious thing you have.

There are “sacrifices” in ball games, a “sacrificial butt”, a “sacrificial fly” — sacrificing something of great value to obtain something of greater value. There always has to be a sacrifice. Our Master gave His life as a sacrifice.

He sacrificed His life for us. That has got to reach a person's heart.

That is all part of the essential gospel, but it hasn't yet told us anything we have to give up or that we have to do.

We just have to believe that, but then there are many other aspects that make the complete gospel. There all the commandments in the gospel — we have to learn those commandments. That is the second part.

The first essential requirement is that we must believe. This is the essential gospel, the essence, the aspect that gives it identity. You cannot just say, “Ok, you have to give up your life, your house, your possessions.” No one

is going to do it because they do not know why anyone would be worthy of giving those things up for. There have been kings who have given up thrones for women; it must have been a great love for her that he would give up his throne for her. You might say that man loved that woman. Unless we give our lives, our homes, our sacred honor, everything we have, then it would not be much of a love, would it? The requirement is life for life.

Our possessions have a hold on us. You cannot just believe without giving your life up or your possessions up or whatever keeps you from being a disciple. For instance, parents. Sometimes mothers can keep their children from being disciples, if they still have a hold on them. In Brazil, mothers are the strongest part of the family; they rule, and sometimes keep their children from being a disciple. This aspect of the gospel, of course, is not an issue in Christianity, for you do not have to give your mother up to go to church on Sunday. But to be a *disciple* you have to give everything up, that is, if Mt 10:37 is true — that if a person will not give up these things, like parents and children or their dream house and their family, etc., he is not worthy to be His disciple.

Well, if someone does not give up these things, what kind of belief is it then, that would not cause him to obey? What kind of belief did the rich young ruler have that he would not obey the Son of God who was standing right there in front of him? It was too much for him; it exposed that he did not have faith. It was not a matter of “works salvation”, earning his salvation by giving up his possessions. People who say that that is what we are saying have a demon. We say that the rich young ruler did not have *faith* to obey the gospel. Understand this.

Faith requires obedience. The gospel is not only to be believed, but it is to be obeyed. There are two aspects of the gospel — one is to be believed, the other is to be obeyed. It is comprehensive; it is mighty and multifaceted. You have the essential requirements of the Son of God — what He did and who He is — and then the requirement for us to obey Him. He did not want people who would not obey Him.

Whoever says, “I have come to know Him,” but does not obey Him is a liar. How can you trust a person who will not obey the Son of God? How can you possibly have any fellowship with him?

1 Cor 15:1-4 is the *essence* of the gospel, the aspect of the gospel that gives it identity; it is intrinsic; its nature is inherent, inborn, indispensable. There is no way a person can give up his life and all his possessions unless he falls in love with Yahshua, unless he has faith in the Son of God. You cannot require this from a person; that person has to be drawn to the Son. When he goes to the Son, the Son says, “You cannot be a follower of mine with the extra baggage; you cannot take it through the narrow door.”

The essence is the aspect of the gospel that gives it identity, the indispensable properties of it. The *essence* contains the most important, effectual ingredients of the gospel, the crucial elements of who He is and why He died for us, the inherent, unchanging nature of the good news of our Master Yahshua; it does not change. It is the gospel that Paul preached. If anyone preaches a different gospel, he is accursed.

Therefore we have to know that, the essence, first. Peter preached it on the day of Pentecost — about Yahshua, how He died and raised from the dead. So then the people said, “What shall we do?” Then he told them that they had to repent. And then, with many other words, he kept on exhorting them how to be saved from this wicked world, from the dead. Then (Mt 28:20) he started commanding them everything that Yahshua had commanded them to do: to leave everything to follow Him — mother, father, sister, brother, husband, wife, possessions, family — to be a disciple. And then you can see the outcome of that, of everyone sharing their possessions, selling their properties, the apostles making distribution (Acts 2:42,45; 4:32-35).

So, what were they devoted to? To the apostles’ teaching. Because the apostles had taught them what our Master had taught them. The apostles had been taught by Yahshua for three and a half years. They were devoted to the apostles’ teaching and to distribution, etc. It is just like it says the priests do in Heb 13:16. Paul told the rich to distribute, to communicate their wealth. That is what those in the New Covenant are to be devoted to: to the apostles teaching, to distribution, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. *Distribution* in Greek is *koinonia* which is *community*, which is *joint possession*, which is distribution. That is what we are devoted to: to sharing everything we have with one another, to that communication. Without that

sharing there is no fellowship.

How much communion and fellowship did Ananias and Sapphira have with their brothers? There was always that strain of having something they were holding onto that they weren't giving up.

Therefore they could not be in fellowship with the Son of God or with one another. They were not devoted to the distribution. That is why there is no fellowship between people — because the love of God is not in them. 1

Jn 3:17 — How can the love of God be in a person who sees someone in need and does not give to them? They need food or clothing and all he does is say, “Be warm and fed.” But you see a brother in need and your heart of compassion goes out to them and you cannot have fellowship without giving them what they need. There is no way we can have fellowship unless we are devoted to that distribution (Acts 4:33-34). You have to see a person's need; you have to be acquainted with it.

There has to be such a fellowship with others that we know each other's needs and we must meet that need.

That is just a little bit about the gospel.

So the gospel we need to preach is Messiah crucified — that is the essential ingredients and essence of the gospel and all it entails. The Son of God became a man. God came in the flesh. He became a man. *Became* indicates pre-existence. He existed as God and became a man in order to be crucified. And once we see that, that we deserved to die, then there is nothing else that would or could hold you back. If you have to leave parents, you have to leave them.

What does it mean in the scriptures when it says you have to “hate your parents”? If you get married and your parents still have authority over you, you are not married. There has to be a leaving and a giving away. When this leaving and giving away does not happen, it is the cause of divorces — you are not married. So therefore we have to leave everything — disconnect — to be a disciple of Yahshua. Some parents say, “Wonderful”, so we can have fellowship with them, but they still exert no authority over you as a disciple. They cannot exert authority over a disciple. In this way you have to hate your own mother, father, sister, brother, for when you love someone *less*, then it is taken as hate. But there is no middle ground. So if you are not obeying your parents, it is considered *hate* by them. It explains this in Mt 10:37. You don't have to have hostility, but you have to hate whatever would keep you from having eternal life. Loving Yahshua more than your parents is considered hate.

That family tie is strong everywhere. That is why the gospel is written the way it is. “*Whoever loves mother, father, etc., more than Me is not worthy of Me.*” If you love, you will obey. You show love through obedience, not through emotions that you have one day and don't have the next day. That is how you show love — you obey. So if you obey your parents instead of Yahshua, it shows you love them more than Yahshua. Only the Son of God could come and separate people from their families. Only seeing Him as eternal life and being rescued from eternal punishment could separate you from your family. (Though we come from a fatherless generation; these values are not even there in our generation.)

Now that is just the essential gospel. We have to see *it* first and then the other aspects of it fall right into place — obeying the gospel. Someone might say, “I want eternal life, but I can't give up all my possessions and my wife doesn't want to come. I can't do all these things.” If our Master had just said come to church every week (and give 10%), He would never know whether that person really believed. It says you first have to believe in your heart that Yahshua is Sovereign and then you make *that* confession and he *becomes* your King. You are transferred out of the kingdom of darkness at that very moment, and into the kingdom of God, the kingdom of light, and you follow Him. That is the only gospel that I know. I don't know any other gospel than that. And that is the gospel that has been preached to you. Any other gospel is from another spirit. “*Whoever preaches another gospel is accursed.*”

If He does not mean everything to you, He means nothing at all. This means that you cannot hang onto your life and receive Him. But you have to know Him first in order to give up your life. You cannot give it up to some myth. A prophet said that there would be a time when He would become only a myth. People would

believe in Him just like they believe in Santa Claus or a fairy tale — it is the same type of belief, all in the mind. If you believe in your heart, it changes your life; you are radically changed, a new creature, old things have passed away, new things have come. You are no longer living for yourself but living for the One who died and rose again for you. That is the good news that we preach. Jn 3:36 — *Whoever believes (trusts in, relies upon, adheres to —that is what believe means) has eternal life; but whoever disobeys the Son, the wrath of God remains upon him.*” If you don't obey, it means that you don't believe. The obedience part tests our belief. The gospel is designed that way by our God.

The gospel you hear in Christianity is designed by the devil. It is another gospel, another spirit, another Yahshua. Their “gospels” say, “Add a new dimension to your life; be a witness at work.” It is another gospel. If you go to that church today and start preaching *this* gospel, you will be thrown out. The prophets are *always* stoned.

1 Jn 3:17 — It is so much better to give to a brother whom you see is in need than to legislate righteousness. It is so much better if you do it by your own free will according to your own heart, according to whether you want to be obedient or not. If a person came to you and said, “Ok, you have 17 blouses and 17 skirts, you have to give 7 of them to her who doesn't have any.” Well, it does not do one bit of good to give because someone told you to give. You have to see the need and out of that compassion that comes forth, you give out of your own free will, out of love. It is no good unless it comes from *your* heart.

Restoration can be nothing less than Acts 26:7. The world is death. We have to come out of that state and come into the Body of Messiah. And if Acts 26:7 is restored, we will come back to *that*. Otherwise, this is not salvation. Salvation is found no where else but in the Body of Messiah.

Hakam: It is with the heart that a man believes. If it's only belief in the mind, it's not true faith. When the essential gospel is proclaimed and they know they are a sinner and they believe it, they really want to give themselves to this One who died for them. Nobody knows how to give their life to God; that's why they need many other words. And that's the test of whether they have faith or not. The sincere *want* to be saved. That's where the demands of the “many other words” come in — the giving up of your possessions, abandonment of your life. No one will resist doing that if he has a good heart and is *truly* receiving faith.

When Peter told them what they had to do, the requirements of obeying the Messiah, according to the commandments our Master told them to teach, well, after that, what else could they do? They had to live in community. Because once you have obeyed the requirements of the gospel (not just believed but obeyed Him), you need the Body of Messiah. If, like Christians, you believed but you disobeyed the Son, the wrath of God remains upon you. They do not understand what our Father's desire is, what His container is, where His Spirit dwells.