

THE PLAIN GOSPEL

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STUDENT WORKBOOK

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The Plain Gospel

and What We're Supposed to Do With It

Curtis Hartshorn

Christian denominations all claim to be teaching the gospel, but some have added to the original message and some have left things out. The gospel has been presented in so many different ways that today it takes Bible knowledge to separate the real gospel from man-made traditions. This class will reveal what Jesus and His followers were saying when they taught people the gospel. During this course we will strip away what has been added, insert the original truths which have been left out and get back to the Plain Gospel. By the time you finish all 10 of these classes you will know what the plain gospel is and you will know what you are supposed to do with it.



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1. A Plain Introduction to the Gospel

This first class will give us a better understanding of the word "Gospel." How does the Bible use the word? We will see where the concept of gospel comes from and discover whether there is any Old Testament connection to what was taught in the New Testament.

Gospel has become a popular label.

Why call it the Plain Gospel?

Why do we teach the Plain Gospel?

- 1 Corinthians 1:17 _____

By plain, we certainly don't mean to imply that the gospel is dull or uneventful.

Adding things to the gospel makes it void.

We want to teach the gospel the way it was _____ taught.

εὐαγγελίζω / euaggelizo = A Good Message

euaggélion = Preach the gospel

gōdspel = Good Story

GOS'PEL, n. [L. evangelium, a good or joyful message.] The history of the birth, life, actions, death, resurrection, ascension and doctrines of Jesus Christ; or a revelation of the grace of God to fallen man through a mediator, including the character, actions, and doctrines of Christ, with the whole scheme of salvation, as revealed by Christ and his apostles.

The Old Covenant contains good news:

- Proverbs 15:30 _____
- Proverbs 25:25 _____
- Isaiah 52:7 _____
- 2 Kings 7:9 _____

I want to know the gospel which must be preached to the whole world before the _____ comes.

- Matthew 24:14

I'm interested in the gospel which is of benefit to the _____.

- Matthew 11:4-5; Luke 4:18; 7:22

We're going to witness the _____ of the gospel.

- Philippians 4:15

We're going to master the _____ of the gospel (Philippians 1:16)

so we will see the _____ of the gospel (Philippians 2:2).

Course Objective

To get you to the point that you fully understand the gospel and can communicate it to others.

2. Marks of the Plain Gospel

The Gospel of Mark does a fabulous job of showing the good news about Jesus from the beginning, Mark 1:1. This class focuses on how God orchestrated the establishment of the gospel, the good news about the coming Messiah and how He presented it with absolute clarity.

A. The Beginning of the Gospel

1. Mark tells of the gospel from its _____; the gospel that belongs to Jesus the Son.

- Mark 1:1-4

2. To tell the whole story of the gospel we have to go back to _____ ministry, 1:4.

3. The gospel of the _____ has been preached since the time of John.

- Luke 16:16

4. John _____ the way for the Messiah to come into the world to bring us salvation.

- Mark 1:2-3

B. Commitment to the Gospel

1. This _____ gospel which Jesus preached also belongs to God the Father.

- Mark 1:14-15

Who's Gospel?

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| • The gospel of God | - Romans 1:1 |
| • The gospel of Christ | - Romans 15:19 |
| • The gospel of salvation | - Ephesians 1:13 |
| • The gospel of peace | - Ephesians 6:15 |
| • The gospel of the kingdom | - Matthew 24:14 |
| • The gospel of the glory of Christ | - 2 Corinthians 4:4 |

2. God fully expects _____ to believe the plain gospel, 1:15.

3. Disciples are called to be willing to lose their _____ for the sake of the gospel.

- Mark 8:34-37

4. What we gain from the gospel is worth giving up _____, 8:35.

C. Salvation Through the Gospel

1. Jesus' disciples are expected to be _____ to leave everything behind for the sake of the gospel.

- Mark 10:28-30

2. When the gospel is preached, those who believe and are _____ will be saved.

- Mark 16:15-16

3. The gospel doesn't need our _____.

4. We learn the gospel from _____ and other New Testament writers and preach it just the way they did.

3. The Plain Gospel and Acts

Acts is the gospel in motion. In this class we will see word for word how the gospel was taught to unbelievers and adapt it to the way we should be teaching it today.

A. Patterns for Preaching the Gospel

1. _____ had the good news and announced it to men.

- Luke 1:18-19

2. Christ our Savior coming to earth to bring _____ to everyone is gospel/good news.

- Luke 2:8-11

3. This plain gospel is what brings _____ into the kingdom.

- Matthew 4:19-23

B. Benefits of the Gospel

1. The gospel has an element to it which is of benefit to the _____.

- Matthew 11:4-5

- Luke 4:18; 7:22

2. The gospel _____ us to good people we would normally miss.

- Acts 8:5,9-13

3. After the plain gospel is preached to people, they tend to get _____,
the benefit of salvation through Jesus, 8:12.

4. The gospel helps us turn away from _____ worship.

- Acts 14:8-18

5. _____, turning away from vain living, is part of the message of the gospel.

- Acts 14:16; 17:30

C. The Gospel of the Early Church

1. Peter preached the message of the gospel to _____.

- Acts 15:7; 10:34-43

2. The plain gospel needs to be heard so people can _____.

- Acts 15:6-8

3. The plain gospel is our door by which we receive the saving _____ of God.

- Acts 20:22-24

4. The plain gospel gives our lives _____, 20:24.

4. Romans: Obligated to the Plain Gospel

This fourth class delves into Paul's explanation of why he was obligated to teach the gospel accurately to those whom others were unwilling to teach. Romans also explains why each Christian is obligated to share the gospel with others.

A. Set Apart for the Gospel

1. Paul was set apart as an apostle and _____ for the gospel.

- Romans 1:1-6

2. The gospel is about the _____ power of Jesus which permits us to receive God's grace, 1:4-5.

3. This is the _____ of God's Son. We serve him by preaching it.

- Romans 1:8-9

B. Nothing to be Ashamed of

1. It is God's _____ for salvation.

- Romans 1:16-17

2. The gospel has to do with _____ and has an impact on where we will stand on Judgement Day.

- Romans 2:14-16

3. The gospel response is dying to sin and being buried in _____.

- Romans 6:1-4

C. From a Gospel Perspective

1. The plain gospel projects _____ for anyone willing to see it.

- Romans 10:14-17

2. We are expected to heed or _____ the good news.

- Romans 10:16 _____

- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 _____

- 1 Peter 4:17 _____

3. Looking at people from the standpoint of the gospel helps us _____ between friends and enemies of the church.

- Romans 11:28

4. Every _____ has a priest-like duty to share the plain gospel of God.

- Romans 15:14-16

5. All _____ for the lost coming to Jesus belongs to the gospel.

- Romans 15:18-20

6. The gospel is able to _____ us resulting in the obedience of our faith.

- Romans 16:25-27

5. 1 Corinthians: The Core of The Gospel

When teaching the gospel to unbelievers we should start at the center, the core. Then we explain in more detail what the gospel is as time permits. This class on 1 Corinthians shows what the core of the gospel is.

A. The Relationship Building Gospel

1. Our evangelistic goal is not to baptize people; it's to _____ the plain gospel.

- 1 Corinthians 1:14-17

2. The gospel doesn't need our _____. That empties the cross of its power, 1:17.

3. The gospel made Paul a spiritual _____ to the Corinthians.

- 1 Corinthians 4:14-15

B. Ensuring the Gospel's Future

1. Do all you can to not _____ the gospel.

- 1 Corinthians 9:11-12

2. Those who preach the gospel are within their right to earn a _____ from the gospel.

- 1 Corinthians 9:13-14

3. Woe to any _____ who does not preach the plain gospel.

- 1 Corinthians 9:15-16

- 2 Corinthians 11:4; 9:13

4. A preacher may choose to _____ his right to earn a living from the gospel.

- 1 Corinthians 9:17-18

- 2 Corinthians 11:7

5. Everything we do as a church and as _____ is for the gospel's sake.

- 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

C. A Reminder of the Gospel

1. There is a specific _____ on which we stand.

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

2. The gospel _____ us under the condition that we hold firmly to it.

- 1 Corinthians 15:2

- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

3. The gospel is that Jesus died, He was _____, and He was raised, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

4. Christ did so in fulfillment of the _____ scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

6. Galatians: When the Gospel is Not the Gospel

The churches in Galatia did something to the gospel that made it no longer the gospel. This sixth class will expose the mistake our first century brethren made with the hope we will not make the same mistake.

A. Deserting the Gospel

1. How sad that the Galatians were already turning to a _____ gospel.

- Galatians 1:6-8

2. Preaching a different gospel is the same as _____ God, 1:6.

3. A _____ gospel is not even gospel/good news, 1:7.

4. A tainted gospel is disturbing, even _____, to those who listen, 1:7.

B. The Curse of Man-made Gospels

1. There is a _____ on anyone who alters the plain gospel.

- Galatians 1:8-10

2. When pleasing _____ becomes more important than pleasing _____ the plain gospel gets distorted, 1:10.

3. Any gospel that comes from a _____ is not the true gospel.

- Galatians 1:11-12

C. The Gospel's Original Intention

1. The truth of the gospel must always remain with the _____.

- Galatians 2:4-7

2. It is because of the gospel that we are expected to _____ brethren like brethren.

- Galatians 2:11-14

3. Through scripture the gospel was preached to _____.

- Galatians 3:6-8

4. The gospel unites us by _____ us with Christ.

- Galatians 3:26-28

7. Ephesians: The Plain Saving Gospel

In this seventh class of our series we will look at the undeniable correlation between the gospel and salvation. We will also see where the church comes into play with regards to the gospel.

A. The Gospel Will Set You Free

1. Through the gospel we become _____, forgiven, recipients of God's grace.

- Ephesians 1:7-13

2. Through the gospel we _____ the will of God, 1:9.

3. Through the gospel we obtain an _____, 1:11.

4. The gospel is the message of _____ for salvation, 1:13.

5. At salvation we are _____ with the Holy Spirit in Christ, 1:13; Acts 2:38.

B. The Gospel: Entrance to God's Kingdom

1. The house of God is built on the _____ of God's Word.

- Ephesians 2:19-22

2. The _____ is what determines whether someone is a fellow member of God's household or not.

- Ephesians 3:1-7

3. Every fellow _____ is also a fellow heir and fellow partaker of the promises, 3:6.

C. Gospel Weaponry

1. This is not a game. This is a _____.

- Ephesians 6:10-17

2. Your war is not with people; it's with _____, 6:12.

3. Each part of your spiritual armor is _____ for survival, 6:13.

4. The gospel is _____ equipment in your spiritual armor, 6:15.

5. The gospel brings you _____, 6:15.

D. The Mystery of the Gospel

1. The gospel was once _____ but now it is revealed.

- Ephesians 6:18-20

2. There is no reason the gospel cannot be taught with _____, 6:19.

3. We are _____ wherever God places us because of the gospel, 6:20.

4. Be _____ in your proclamation of the gospel, 6:20.

8. Philippians: Defense of the Plain Gospel

The church of Christ is God's army equipped and mobilized for the defense of the gospel, Philippians 1:16. The short book of Philippians has much to teach us in this class about how to ensure the furtherance of the gospel.

A. Our Participation in the Gospel

1. The gospel is something we _____ in continually.

- Philippians 1:3-5

2. It is our duty to defend the gospel as we _____.

- Philippians 1:6-7

3. We defend _____ when we defend the gospel.

- Colossians 1:5 _____

- Ephesians 1:13 _____

4. The gospel must be defended against those who preach out of envy and _____.

- Philippians 1:15-17

B. The Untethered Gospel

1. It is our responsibility to ensure that the gospel is _____.

- Philippians 1:12-14 _____

2. Make it well known among those you are _____ to, 1:13.

3. _____ is a major deterrent to the progress of the gospel.

- Philippians 1:14 _____

- 1 John 4:18 _____

- Colossians 1:23 _____

C. Our Partnership in the Gospel

1. We hold ourselves to a certain standard of conduct because we are _____ of the gospel.

- Philippians 1:27-28

2. We do not strive by ourselves for the furtherance of the gospel;
we stand _____ by faith, 1:27.

3. We stand firm in one spirit with one _____, 1:27.

4. We _____ Christ together by taking the gospel to our friends and neighbors.

- Philippians 2:19-22

5. Presenting the gospel together gives us a genuine _____ for each
other's welfare, 2:20.

9. Thessalonica: The Impact of the Plain Gospel

This class covers both 1st and 2nd Thessalonians looking at the tremendous impact the gospel had on the city of Thessalonica from the day Paul and Silas first preached the gospel at their synagogue, Acts 17:1-2.

A. The Holy Spirit Powered Gospel

1. The _____ is more than mere words.

- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

2. We proclaim the gospel out of a strong _____ by the power of the Holy Spirit, 1:5.

3. The _____ must be preached even during _____ conditions.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4

- 2 Timothy 1:8 _____

B. Not Only the Gospel

1. The gospel does not need the _____ of flattering speech.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:5-8

2. Don't just share the gospel with people; share your _____ with them as well.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:8 _____

- 2 Timothy 1:10 _____

3. We have been called into God's _____ to proclaim the gospel of God.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12

4. We were _____ for the proclamation of the gospel of Christ.

- 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3

- 2 Timothy 2:8 _____

C. The Gospel of Salvation

1. A king is responsible for maintaining the _____ of his kingdom.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

2. The gospel is something which must be _____ in order to escape the punishment of God, 1:8.

3. You were chosen from the beginning for _____.

- 2 Thessalonians 2:8-14

4. It is through the gospel that we receive salvation, the _____ of our Lord, 2:13-14.

10. Obeying the Plain Gospel

This tenth and final class guides us through four places where the New Testament says we need to obey the good news, the gospel. Then using only the Bible, we will see how each soul is invited to obey the gospel as a means of receiving salvation.

A. What is the Gospel?

1. The Gospel is the good news of _____ for everyone through Christ.

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

2. Paul already taught The Corinthians the gospel before, but he wanted to _____ them about it, 15:1.

3. There is much to the gospel, but what is of _____ importance is that Christ died, He was buried and He was raised, 15:3-4.

B. What do we do with the Gospel?

1. Hearing the good news will not result in entering God's rest until we _____ it.

- Hebrews 4:4-6

2. If we truly believe the gospel, we will _____ its good news.

- Romans 10:11-17

3. Those who don't obey the gospel will pay the penalty of _____ destruction.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

4. One must obey the gospel in order to be part of the _____ of God.

- 1 Peter 4:17

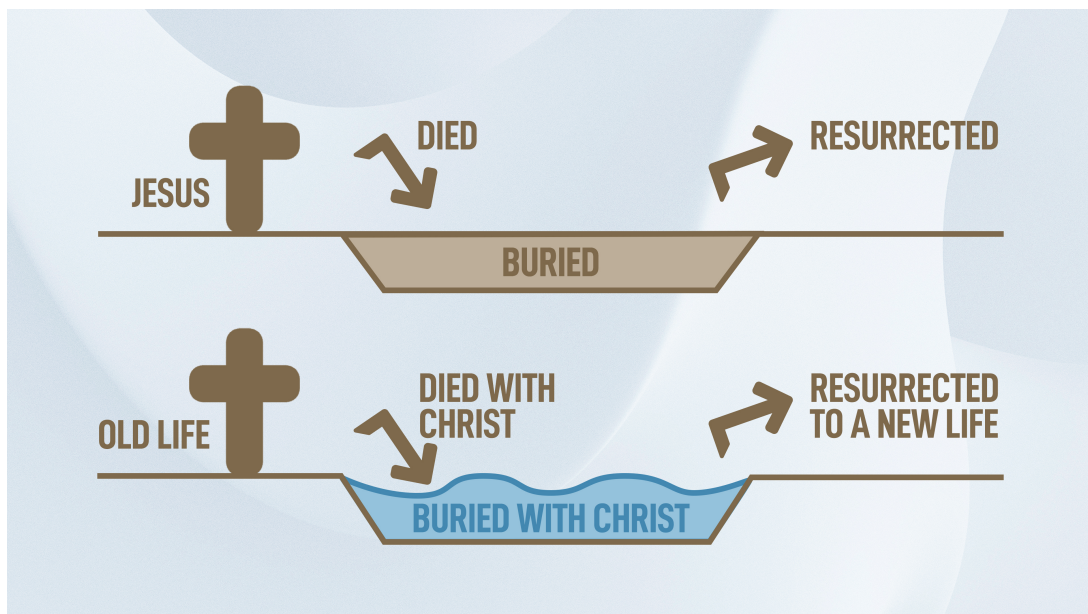
C. How do we obey the Gospel?

1. A person must _____ their sins before they can be buried.

- Romans 6:1-4 _____

2. Just as Jesus was buried, we too must be buried in _____, 6:4.

3. Only after baptism is a person raised to walk in _____ of life, 6:4.



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