



“The Gospel is simple but also capable of being misunderstood.”

Galatians 1

“⁶ I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a **different** gospel; ⁷ which is really not another; only there are some who are **disturbing** you, and want to **distort** the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel **contrary** to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”

The Gospel is distorted when it compromises grace.

1 Corinthians 15

“¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel which I preached to you**, which also you **received**, in which also you **stand**, ² by which also you **are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you**, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that **He was raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

Centered in Christ's death and resurrection

Ephesians 2

“⁸ For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ **not as a result of works**, that no one should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Secured by Grace through Faith that inspires good works (but is not based on them).

How is John distinct?

- 90% of John is unique to John except for:
 - ✓ Feeding the 5000
 - ✓ Mary anointing Jesus' feet
 - ✓ Predicting Peter' denial & Judas' betrayal
 - ✓ The passion events
- John's emphasis:
 - ✓ The word “repentance” does not appear.
 - ✓ “belief” & “faith” appear more often in John than in Matt., Mk., & Lk. combined.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes in Him** shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

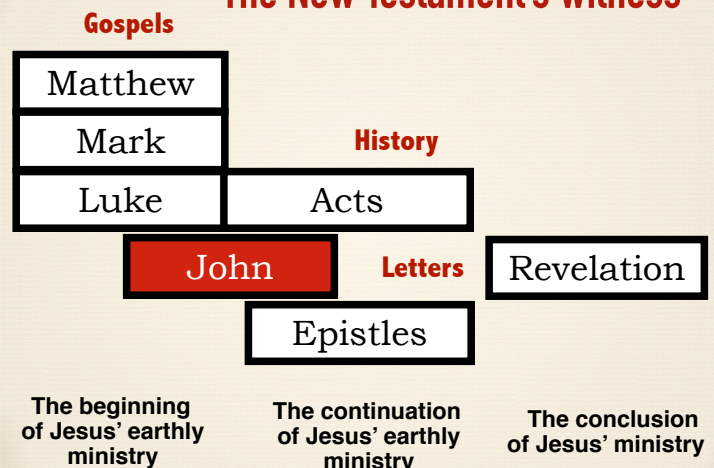
John 5:24

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and **believed Him** who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

John 20:31

“but these have been written that you may **believe that Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

The New Testament's witness



The Gospel is

One Gospel

Pre Christ (Old Testament)
the Good News of the promised hope of God's blessing through the seed of Abraham & the Law of Moses

Pre Easter (Jesus)
revealed in the person of Jesus Christ

Post Easter (Paul)
through his Cross and Resurrection for both Jew and Gentile.

Distinct Emphasis

The nature of saving faith

Trust in God

Pre Christ (Old Testament)
Trust in God is expressed through keeping the Law Covenant of Moses.

Pre Easter (Jesus)
Trust in God is expressed through following Jesus.

Post Easter (Paul)
Trust in God is expressed through Identification with the crucified and resurrected Jesus as our hope.

Distinct Expressions

The Gospel

What is done **FOR** us
Redemption

What is done **IN** us
Regeneration

What is done **THROUGH** us
Reformation



Evangelical Christians disagree as to what extent the 2nd point is essential to the 1st.

Discipleship salvation

A person must display the obedience of a disciple of Christ before their faith is genuine.

Discipleship salvation

1. **Not everyone** who professes to be a Christian really is saved.
2. We will know true Christians by their **obedience** to the moral law of God.
3. We must come to Christ and **follow after Him** if he is to save us.
4. A true believer **cannot and will not** live with unresolved sins in this life.
5. The **final judgment** determining who goes to heaven will be in accordance with our works, which accompany true faith.

"Four views on the role of works at the final judgment"



Thomas R. Schreiner
So. Baptist Theological Sem.

"Paul clearly argues that good works are necessary for eternal life."

"The Philippians must 'obey' and 'work' in order to be saved! There is no salvation apart from obedience or good works. Indeed, Paul emphasizes that believers must accomplish their own salvation."

"Entrance into the city (heaven) is granted only to those who are holy, only to those who do the will of God and do good works."

"Believers still sin regularly, so that the good works constitute a new **direction** or a new **orientation** in their lives"

- ➡ **Matt.5:22-23** The Sermon on the Mount is full of warnings about failing to fulfill the spirit of the Law. “whoever shall say ‘you fool’ shall be **guilty enough to go into the hell of fire.**”
- ➡ **Matt.5:29-30** “And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for **it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.** And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.” (also Matt.18:8-9)
- ➡ **Matt.6:14-15** “For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But **if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**”
- ➡ **Matt.7:19** “Every tree that does not **bear good fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

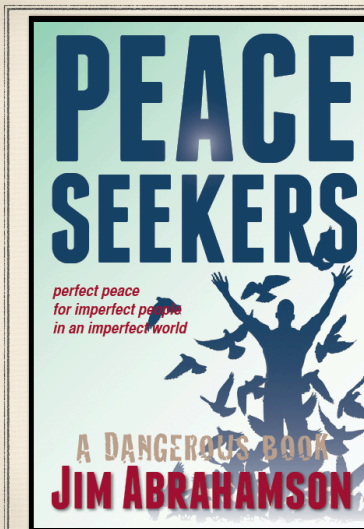
- ➡ **“Deny himself”** – make no provision for self. (Lk.9:23)
- ➡ **“Take up his cross”** – share the suffering of Christ.
- ➡ **“Follow Me”** – not double minded.
- ➡ **“Loses his life”** – make no provision for this present temporal life.
- ➡ **“Whoever is ashamed of Me”** – bold unapologetic witness.
- ➡ **“Hate your family”** (Matt.10:37, Lk.14:26) – put Christ above one’s natural family.
- ➡ **“Forsake all”** (Lk.14:33) – hold on to nothing in this world.
- ➡ **“Give up all possessions”** (Lk.14:25-27) – be like Jesus.
- ➡ **“Be perfectly righteous”** (Matt.5:20) – exceed the discipline of the Pharisees.

Matthew 12.35-37: The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for **by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.**

Romans 2:6-8: **He will render to each one according to his works:** to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

2 Cor. 5:10: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may **receive what is due for what he has done in the body**, whether good or evil.

1 Peter 1:17: And if you call on him as Father who **judges impartially according to each one’s deeds**, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile...



For explanations of many of these “troubling texts” see Appendix #1 in *Peace Seekers*.

Four important distinctions

1. **Strategic & tactical repentance**
2. **Legal position & life performance**
3. **Head & Heart conversion.**
4. **The judgment of sons & servants.**

Don't confuse

strategic REPENTANCE and tactical repentance.

<h2 style="color: red;">REPENT</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ The sin of unbelief ★ Conversion ✓ Apostasy is the reversal of strategic REPENTANCE. ✓ Strategic REPENTANCE need not be repeated. 	<h2 style="color: black;">repent</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Moral transgressions ★ Communion ✓ Backsliding is the reversal of tactical repentance. ✓ Tactical repentance is repeatedly needed.
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Water baptism
is about
conversion.

The Lord's Supper
is about
communion.



**Both are about
repentance.**

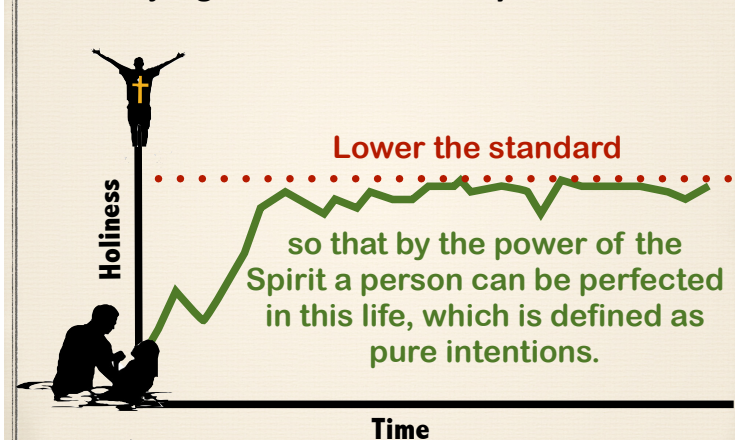
Positional truth - the believer's legal status



The Roman Catholic solution to the
judgment of believers by works



The Protestant solution to the
judgment of believers by works



**What
constitutes
saving
faith?**



Level #1
Intellectual assent
"superficial faith confession"

Level #2
Transfer of trust
"heartfelt confession of faith"

Level #3
Water baptism
"confirmation of repentance"

Level #4
Commitment to holy living
(a pure heart)

Level #5
Living a life of obedience
(a pure life)

Sonship Salvation
is accused of
thinking that level
#1 saves.

Discipleship
Salvation demands
that one or more of
these steps are
needed for
justification.

Level #1
Intellectual assent
"superficial faith confession"

Level #2
Transfer of trust
"heartfelt confession of faith"

Level #3
Water baptism
"confirmation of repentance"

Level #4
Commitment to holy living
(a pure heart)

Level #5
Living a life of obedience
(a pure life)

Sonship Salvation believes that level #2 saves & should lead to levels #3, #4, & #5.



**Strategic
REPENTANCE
(conversion)**

**Tactical
Repentance
(communion)**



Judgment

of a Christian or someone outside of Christ.

**Of a
Son**

**Of a
servant**

✓ United with Christ's death and resurrection.

✓ Facing a Holy God without Christ.

✓ For rewards or loss thereof.

✓ For eternal destiny.

1 Corinthians 3

"¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man **builds upon the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall **receive a reward**. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he shall **suffer loss**; but **he himself shall be saved**, yet so as through fire."

Judgment of believers

Not moral virtue
as we are imputed
with Christ's holiness

But ministry value
as we walk in the power
of the Spirit or the Flesh.

Consider

1. **Who is the Redeemer?** - Jesus who bore the curse for us or the Holy Spirit who empowers us to keep the law? How is this different than Judaism or Roman Catholicism?
2. **How holy must we be and for how long?** To satisfy God at the final judgment will good intentions or a new direction in life save anyone?
3. **In what sense is the Gospel good news** - if in the end we are judged by our works? Who but Christ has met that standard?
4. **Positional truth?** Is there not a difference between our legal position and our living performance.
5. **Have we not died to the Law?** Is there now no condemnation because we have died with Christ?

"We think of the Christian life as a 'changed life' but it is not that. What God offers us is an 'exchanged life,' a 'substituted life,' and Christ is our Substitute within."

The Normal Christian Life
Watchman Nee

"The Gospel is ours to proclaim, not to edit."

"But it must be the right Gospel."