**THE GOSPEL WE PREACH**

**Chapter One**

**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?**

The word "gospel" within the body of Christ (the church) refers to "Good news". The word is used also for the first four books of the New Testament Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These are the four "gospel" but the word is precisely for the central doctrine of the Christian faith concerning Jesus namely his death, burial and resurrection.

Paul clearly states that the gospel that he preached is that Jesus died according to the scriptures, was buried, and rose again according to the scriptures.

That Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sin so that we might become the children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

The gospel is the application and implication of advantageous position of the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"The Gospel" is the total sum of the saving truth as God has communicated it to lost humanity as it is revealed in the person of His son and in the Holy Scriptures.

The central truth of the gospel is that God has provided a way of salvation for men through the gift of his son to the world. He suffered as a sacrifice for sin, overcame death, and now offers a share in His triumph to all who will accept it.

The gospel is good news because it is a gift of God, not something that must be earned by penance or by self-improvement.

The gospel is the greatest good news that humanity will ever hear and the greatest news that lost creation is waiting to hear. Consider this story: A man went to farm, leaving his lovely wife and children behind. As he left the house, both him and his household hoped to see each other by the end of the day when he is through with his work and in the farm and return home in the evening.

While in the farm, around midday, a band of kidnappers invaded his farm and took him hostage. When he went to their camp in the thick forest where they kept their victims he saw many other people that have stayed there for years, some even for decades. Those that were there before him told of how impossible it is for anyone who has come here to regain freedom. He need not argue with them because their long stay in the hostage camp is enough evidence to convince him that there is no hope for him.

They also went further to tell him of some failed rescue attempts in the past. Nobody is powerful enough to break into the camp and liberate the captive of the powerful gang. In fact, in the region, they are known as the most powerful and what it means is that if you are kidnapped by them, you have been sentenced to a lifetime of bondage and slavery and there is no hope of ever getting out.

The farmer misses his household, his beautiful wife and his lovely children. That alone is enough reason to be sad and to mourn but his situation is even further complicated by the none existence of any hope of escape from his bondage. To imagine that he will be there for life and never know again what it means to be a free man pierces his heart constantly with pains and sighs of anguish constantly escapes his weary lips.

But one day it happened that those band of kidnappers went out for another catch, all of them went out while making sure that the place where their captives are kept was securely locked from the main entrance.

As they went about their hunt for new set of victims to kidnap, they ran into a much more powerful militia group who engaged them in a fierce battle, conquered them all and went straight to their camp where their captives are kept.

When they (the liberating force) got to the gate of the camp of bondage, they broke it down and leveled the fences around it. They couldn’t stay longer because they have other places to go to but they saw a few men around and announced to them that the power holding everybody in that camp has been defeated and that the work required for the freedom of all that are trapped inside has been done.

They further charged them to go inside the camp, and announce to all that cares to listed that they have been set free. Everybody can now go back home and live a free life again.

Imagine you carrying this wonderful news to that man that has been separated from the family he loves for years, not just the separation but also the fact that there was no possibility of escape him.

That message to that prisoner and every other prisoner telling them of the finished work, already done for their freedom and they way towards escape is the gospel. Isn’t that message a good news? Is it not worth celebrating?

The gospel is the good news to tell man that the required work for his freedom from sin is done and is finished and shows him the way towards freedom and that way is Jesus Christ.

**FEATURES OF THE GOSPEL**

We will consider a few Bible references below from which we can derive the necessary ingredients that must be available before we can say that what we have is a gospel. (1Cor. 15:1-4, 1Pet. 2:21-25, 1John 1:1-5).

**(**1Cor. 15:1-4**) Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,   
2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.**

**3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,   
4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**

**(**1Pet. 2:21-25**) For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:**

**22 “Who committed no sin,  
Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;**

**23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;   
24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.   
25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

**(**1John 1:1-5**) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—   
2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—   
3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.   
4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.**

1. **Jesus must be the center or the focal point of the gospel**:

There was no gospel before Jesus came. The gospel exists as a result of the coming of Jesus and the price he paid for our salvation. If it doesn’t talk about Jesus or lead to Jesus, then it must be something else but definitely not the gospel.

The teaching of a gospel message should have at it’s core the person of Jesus Christ.

1. **The gospel must agree and align with the revealed word of God in the scriptures**:

In the first letter of Apostle Paul to the Corinthians that we read above, we see a repeated mention of “according to the Scriptures”. It wasn’t a mistake, it was deliberate.

The teaching or preaching of the gospel must have it’s source and reference as the Scriptures because in the Scriptures is contained the entirety of the Father’s plan for the salvation of man.

The Scriptures/Bible is our compass that leads and guides us to ensure that we don’t fall into the dangerous extremes of heresy and self-satisfying doctrines that have no power to save.

1. **The gospel demands faith(believing)**:

One of the major struggle of a fallen man that is separated from God and a hindrance to his freedom is the effort to appeal to human reason and logic. For the gospel to be effective, it must require from the the hearers the expression of faith in the received word of hope and good news.

For he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6)

1. **The gospel saves**:

The reason for the gospel is for the salvation of mankind and it is capable of doing exactly that which God intended it for. Soul winning is the purpose for the gospel.

The power of the gospel to save is one of it’s unique identity. Nothing else can do that. A mind may be enlightened by academic work and studies but it is only the gospel that has the power and the capacity to pluck men from the highway of eternity in hell into eternal life with the Father.

The gospel is the greatest force needed to change the hearts of men. When the gospel is constantly preached, it is natural that lives will be transformed effortlessly because it saves.

1. **The gospel is delivered to the preacher**:

The gospel is God’s idea and not man’s and therefore it must conform to the standards of God and anything outside of that is something else different from the gospel. Imagine if you walk into a bank in need of a loan. Are you the one to tell the bank manager what and what are the requirements that must be met before loan should be given to you? Of course not, you will rather listen attentively and do exactly what is required by the bank in order to get the loan.

God is the source of the gospel through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and Jesus is the subject and the center of it. A man that is disconnected from God cannot speak for God or teach his will or plan for the liberation of dying souls. Since the gospel is delivered to the preacher, it doesn’t come on his/her own terms or conditions.

It is not a case of “what I like is what I preach” rather it is “what I received, what was delivered to me is what I preach”.

If a man is the originator of what he teaches or preaches, then that is not the gospel because the gospel must be delivered to the preacher by God through the Spirit. It is only a message thus received that can have the capacity to save lives and the audacity to confront darkness and dispel it.

1. **The gospel must carry the signature of Calvary**:

The greatest problem of man is sin. If the sin problem is dealt with, every other thing will fall into place.

It was at Calvary, by shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ, the price for the remission of the sins of men was duly and fully paid. And without shedding of blood there is no remission (Heb. 9:22).

The gospel carries this message that the required blood sacrifice for washing away sin has been offered at the cross of Calvary.

1. **The gospel must say that it is finished:**

The true gospel message must refer to the required work for the salvation of man as already done and dusted and not something that is yet to be done in the future. It is finished (Jn 19:30).

No more work is left to be done, no more sacrifice or covenant is required in order for salvation to be attained. The work done at Calvary by the sinless Lamb of God was a thorough and complete work.

1. **The gospel brings full joy to those that receive it in faith**:

… that your joy may be full. How can one hear the greatest good news that the entire creation will ever hear and not be moved into praise that springs from a heart full of joy and rejoicing.

There is nothing about the gospel that should not cause the heart of believers to leap for joy. For even if it convicts us of wrong, it does not stop there. It goes further to show us the way forward, the way of escape. It announces to us that our team (Team Jesus) has won and ours is to identify with him in faith and claim the victory! Alleluia. Glory to our kind and benevolent Father the architect of this wonderful plan of salvation.

**Chapter Two**

**WHAT IS NOT GOSPEL?**

The gospel has been introduced and explained in the previous chapter but to further understand what the gospel is, and be able to spot a fake gospel from a distance, we need to also look at what is not the gospel.

It is also of great importance to emphasize that some of the things mentioned below as not being the gospel is not bad in themselves but are bad when they stand against the word of God therefore making God’s word of no effect.

**Religion**

Religion is a serious cankerworm that has eaten deeply into the fabric of modern day believers. It’s man’s attempt to find/reach God but the true Christianity is God in search of man.

A lot of people think that religion saves. They think that being a member of a particular church, attendance of church services, adherence to their church doctrines, payment of a certain amount of money can grant them salvation.

The truth is, salvation cannot be found in churches, the only place salvation can be found is in Christ Jesus.

(Matt. 1:21) **And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”**

If you must be saved, you must be saved by Jesus Christ. There is no other way towards salvation. He is the only and one savior.

(Acts 4:12) **Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

One damaging consequences of religion is that it doesn't give or impart life, it merely tends to keep people bound with the doctrines of a particular church, more especially for some material and monetary gains. It is only through Christ, not religion that one can secure eternal life.

(John 3:3) **Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A3&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-26124a" \o "See footnote a)]again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

Instances abound in the Bible of men that were religious but they weren't saved until they truly received and confessed Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

In the above verse that we just considered (John 3:3), Nicodemus was religious but wasn't saved, Cornelius was religious but wasn't saved, he gave alms, prayed and fasted but he wasn't saved (Acts 10:22). The same applied to Paul before his true conversion and separation of religiosity (Phil. 3:4-9)

**4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:   
5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;   
6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.**

**7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.   
8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ   
9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;**

If religion can save us (going to church, reading the Bible, praying, giving alms and the rest) then it means that the death of Jesus Christ was in vain. If religion can save us, why then did Christ die? Calvary was unnecessary if religion can save. There is only one savior, not religion, the man called Christ.

**Morality/Self Righteousness**:

Some people think they are saved because they live a good life. They rely on their morality, living uprightly to save them.

Morality, living uprightly cannot grant man salvation. If it does, Christ would not have died because it would be possible for man to work out his own salvation.

All our righteousness, pious living and others are filthy rags.

(Isaiah 64:6) **But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.**

(Rom 3:10) **As it is written:**

**“There is none righteous, no, not one;**

(Rom 3:23) **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

All have sinned and therefore all need a savior. Christ did not come for the righteous, he came for the sinners.

(Luke 5:32) **I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”**

If you think you are justified by the works of your hand, by the way you live and behave, then know that Jesus Christ did not come or die for you since his purpose of coming was to bring wholeness to those that are not healthy (sinners) ***When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.*** (Matt. 9:12).

Morality has never and will never save any man. Peter cried, "I am a sinful man, O Lord". Job exclaimed, "I am vile". Isaiah said, "Woe is me, for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips". These men were the best, the most moral and upright of their days but when they saw the Lord, they saw themselves.

You might say you don't steal, you don't fornicate, you don't drink, but if God is to flash His spotless torchlight in your heart, won't He find corruption, unforgiveness, vileness, pollution and the rest? All these constitute sin.

Our morality cannot save us (Paul lived a good life, Nicodemus and Cornelius did the same) but their moral lifestyle didn't save them, only Christ did.

Our morality is like filthy rags before God and would not sustain us in this life. Our righteousness should be in Christ. We have no righteousness of our own, we are sinners and nothing at all. The only thing that qualifies for righteous living is Christ.

**(**Rom. 10:1**) Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+10&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-28190a" \o "See footnote a)]Israel is that they may be saved.   
2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.   
3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.   
4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**

One day I was travelling with some ministers of the gospel to a program somewhere in Anambra state. Some of them were Pastors in well known denominations and have people under them that they are taking care of. While in the car, on our way to the program, a discussion came up and a Pastor in very popular denomination said that for 13 years he has not slept with his wife and with an expression of some degree of shock I asked him why and he said he is preparing himself for a great work. Another Pastor from another popular charismatic denomination when he saw how I reacted to what the first Pastor said about not sleeping with his wife for many years asked me if I sleep on the same bed with my wife. That if I was lying down and my wife crosses over me, all the grace and anointing that is on me will leave me.

They were zealous for the Lord but like the Jews in the days of Paul, they were doing it without knowledge. The knowledge they lack is the knowledge of the finished state of the work necessary for man to be in fellowship with God. God’s presence with a man is the basis on which signs and wonders are performed and Jesus, on the cross of Calvary paid the necessary price and the veil of separation was torn from top to bottom that those who believe in this completed work of salvation may have free and unhindered access and fellowship with the Father.

It is like they wanted to contribute their own quota of righteousness in order to reach certain height and then be usable by God. The human mind, reason and flesh want to boast of doing some work as the reason why God’s power or grace is at work in their lives.

Also like the above are people that pride on their virginity and use it even in prayers as the justification to have to receive answers to their prayers and have certain privileges which others don’t have. The gospel truth is that you can be a virgin and go to hell. Virginity is not the required price for the salvation of a lost soul. The only thing that will save a soul is to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and inherit the righteousness that he freely gives all that trust in him for justification.

Let make something clear here so that some of us don’t get it mixed up. Is being chaste and remaining a virgin if you are not yet married a good thing? Yes, of course it is and in fact it is demanded but is it enough to save a soul without faith in Jesus? Of course no, for Jesus alone is the resurrection and the life, and he is righteousness to all who believe.

**Works**

Many people also think they are saved by their works. They practice penance and self denial. They give alms and say prayers. They visit the sick and imprisoned and perform numerous pilgrimages and afflict their bodies and thus they expect to get to heaven.

The work "for" salvation, whereas God tells them to work "out" their salvation. Salvation must become yours effortlessly before you can begin to work it out. You must first receive Christ and be saved. You must get salvation if you are to work it out. There is nothing you can do about your salvation, it has already been worked by God in Christ Jesus.

Salvation is an eternal gift of God, (Rom 6:23). When you pay and work for a gift, it ceases to become one because you have purchased it with your own human power. A gift is free and so is salvation. You and I does not have what it takes to pay for the forgiveness of our sins to get us salvation. We are bankrupt, we are poor, we are incapacitated, just life the prodigal son in the gospel according to Luke. Salvation is without money and without price, it cannot be bought.

It is the death and the blood of Jesus that can avail a man of righteousness, not the blood of any animal or even human being. Jesus paid it all on the cross so that we accept him as our sin-bearer, our savior.

**(**Eph. 2:8-9**)  For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,   
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

**(**Titus 3:5**) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit**

**(**Rom. 4:5-6**) But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,   
6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:**

Nothing you have done on your human effort can save you and grant you eternal life. It is Christ and Christ alone who saves. Just come to him, and rely on His finished work on Calvary, trust Him this moment and be saved from eternal doom to come.

**Commandments**

A lot of people think they are saved because they keep the commandments. Jesus said, "None of you keeps the law". Remember, if you keep the whole laws/commandments and become guilty of others, you would as well be described as a sinner and He said to them, "whosoever shall keep the whole lay and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all".

Observance of commandments cannot offer us salvation because, no man can be able to keep to all the commandments. Even if someone turns a new leaf and decided to keep and observe all commandments, he would still need to answer for his past sins except he allows Christ to do it for him.

Christ is the only man that has never broken the commandments. He was sinless, he kept the law perfectly. It was of his blameless ways of observing the law that qualifies him to be used as a Lamb for the atonement of our sins.

Reformation of character does not also impart life because it only address the outer being or part of a man rather than the inside. Christ paid for all our sins, made the necessary atonement for us and set us free from the curse of the law. It's all about Christ, not the adherence to commandments.

Our Lord Jesus Christ took you sin, bore it in His own body on the cross, and now he offers you His life – eternal life.

No man is justified by laws (Gal. 3:2, 2:16-21), (Rom. 20-8). Dearly beloved of God, the law/commandments do not and cannot save the soul of any man, nor can the deeds (works) of his virtue do it. It was Jesus Christ, the gift of God, he bled, he died, so that the soul of any man who believe in him will be saved.

**Ordinances**

Many people think that they are saved by what they call the sacraments or ordinances of the church such as baptism and Lord's super.

The thief on the cross was not baptized, neither did he partake in the Lord's super. All that granted him eternal life was a sincere confession and belief in the saving grace of Jesus. Water baptism signifying membership into the body of Christ cannot save you without faith in the finished work of Jesus.

We are baptized because we are saved, not to be saved just like we unite with the church and partake of the communion, not in order to be saved, but because we have been saved.

Christians, not sinners are baptized and Christians, not sinners partake of the Lord's super.

Baptism signifies our membership into the body of Christ after we have believed in Him. It is meant to provide a change of heart and departure from old things. But what happens after a person who has been baptized still remains as he was? The crux of the matter is that baptism cannot save, it is only Jesus Christ that can provide or give a change of life. Church ordinances do not change, we are saved by Christ and Christ alone.

**Condemnation**

Calling out another person while mounting the pulpit or carrying the bible is not preaching of the gospel. Telling men how doomed they are without directing them to the saving power of the blood of Jesus is not gospel. To get people to the place of fear and trembling without leading them to Jesus is not the gospel.

In the body of Christ today, many teachers and preachers spend so much time and energy condemning each other. The orthodox is condemning the Pentecostals, calling them clappers, noise makers and money seekers while the Pentecostals condemns the Orthodox churches, calling them old fashioned, backward and idol worshipers.

**(Rom. 14:4) Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.**

I know the place and the need of warning our followers, listeners or audience of the dangers of false teachers and false doctrine but that should not take the place of declaring the true saving gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is both sad and unfortunate that many preacher, teachers and ministers spend lots of precious time that would have been better utilized to preach the true gospel of Jesus Christ in attacking, judging and pulling down other preachers, teachers and ministers. It is not your work or duty to judge others. God will do that in the right time and you are not wiser than God.

**Good Advise/Motivational Teachings**

Advise or motivational teachings are good and have their right places but as good as they are, they are not good enough to save a lost soul and therefore is not gospel.

**(Acts 10:1-6) There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment,   
[2](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-2.htm) a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.   
[3](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-3.htm) About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!”  
[4](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-4.htm) And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.   
[5](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-5.htm) Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.   
[6](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-6.htm) He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.”**

Here, we can see that even though it was an angel that advised Cornelius on what to do, he still could not be saved until the gospel is preached to him and he believed in Jesus. The angel gave him a good advise to look for Apostle Peter who will tell him the gospel message that will save his soul.

Saying that Jesus is Lord once is better than one million advise. Advise only gives suggestions but it has no power to save anyone. Only the true gospel can save the soul of man.

Great ideas are not the gospel but they are good when put in the right place. “Ten steps to prosperity” is good but it is not the gospel. You might help the person get out of poverty which is good and he will go to hell with his riches which is worst.

**St. Paul’s Warning**

**But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.   
(Galatians 1:8)**

**O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?   
2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?   
3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?   
4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?  
5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?  
(Galatians 3:1-5)**

**Chapter Three**

**THE GOSPEL THAT JESUS PREACHED**

This story, even though not a perfect representation of the coming of Jesus to save mankind can give us a glimpse of what it is like.

*There was a Price of a Kingdom. He had all he needed and lived in glory and riches with his father the King. One day he went for a hunt and while hunting, he observed something that troubled him and gave him so much concern.*

*Close to an ocean, he saw a group of soldier ants lined up. They formed a very long queue because there were many of them. The rest of the ants follows the first ant wherever it goes. If the first ant turns left, the rest of them will follow suit and turn left and if it turns right, they all will do the same and follow it.*

*What really bothered the Prince was that the first one walked straight to the edge of the ocean and fell into it and therefore the rest of the ants followed its lead and kept following into the ocean.*

*This sight worried the Prince so much because if the ants are left to themselves, it is only a matter of time before all of them will perish in the ocean.*

*He started shouting the remaining ants not to follow the direction of those that have perished but they didn’t pay attention to him because they could not hear him. They kept falling into the ocean.*

*He went in front of them and laid down himself in order to obstruct their path to destruction. It seemed like he save the remaining ants but that feeling of success lasted only for a little while. The ants found a way to climb over him and continue on the path of those that went before them. They kept falling into the ocean.*

*When it because clear to him that he can’t really save the ants despite all his efforts, he hurried home with a heart filled with sadness.*

*At home, he narrated his experience with the perishing ants to his father the King. He told his father that he was determined to do anything to save the perishing ants.*

*The king was a very wise man filled with wisdom. He called his son the Prince and told him that if he really wants to save the ants, there is just one way he could do it.*

*The Prince was eager to hear the wise advise of his father and was equally determined to do whatever it demands.*

*The King told him that in order to save the ants and prevent them from falling into the ocean, the Prince will have to leave all his glory and riches in the palace and become an ant like the ants he wants to save.*

*After that, he will have to go to the ants in the forest, join their queue at the very front, when he gets close to the ocean, he will have to turn away from the ocean and the remaining ants on the line will follow him and then escape destruction.*

*The Prince did as his father advised. He became an ant, went into the forest, joined the ants and led them to safety.*

In this chapter, the first thing we will consider here is the life of Jesus Christ, that is the gospel he preached by his life, the way he moved and operated within the knowledge and authority of the Kingdom of God he came to reveal to man and also give him access to.

To put it another way, Jesus was a walking gospel and also a talking gospel moving around during his earthly ministry showing lost men the intent of the Father to save man and the kind of life the Father designed for man.

**(**John 1-4) **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.   
2 He was in the beginning with God.   
3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.   
4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

Herein in the first chapter of the Gospel of John lies a wonderful introduction of the God-man Jesus. He has been from the beginning, he is fully God and he has been with the Father right from the beginning. It is important that the “beginning” was mentioned here because this tells us that God was ever ready to save man from the path of disobedience and death that he chose in the Garden of Eden. The plan for the salvation of man had been in place and all that was required to save man (that is Jesus) was available right from the beginning. This shows that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross of Calvary was not a hasty and unplanned act by Heaven to save mankind. From the beginning, the Father in His love had made plan for the redemption of man.

Jesus was and is and will ever be the Father’s solution to the problem of man. The problem of man is the problem of sin. For if seen is taken care of, if man can overcome sin, then and only then will he be able to operate in the liberty and the fullness of life that God intended for him.

Going further on the above passage, we see that all things were made through him and without him nothing was made that exists. He is the source of all and nothing is independent of him. No man is independent of him whether they acknowledge and admit it or not. Since all things came through him, all things have a certain deposit of him in them. The work of satan through sin is to suppress the residual nature of God in man and the creation as a whole.

It for this reason that no man can know the fullness of life, what life was supposed to be like without knowing Jesus Christ the one through whom life was made. It is only in Jesus that we can have life and have it abundantly.

In him was life and this life was the light of men. By this description of Jesus, it is made clear to us that outside of Jesus, all that is available is death because it is in him that life exists.

Furthermore, it is within this life of Jesus that man finds light to walk in. Whatever was done without Jesus was done in darkness. Have you wondered why many stumble in the world, it is because they are trying to walk outside of Jesus, they are trying so hard to run in darkness and the inevitable result is failures, heartaches, and wounded lives.

The gospel then is God’s design to extend the life of Jesus into all men because Jesus’ earthly walk is the model of life for all mankind.

**(**John 1:17**) For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

Anything seen, perceived or interpreted in a way that is different from God’s view, perception and interpretation is falsehood. Humanity without Jesus lived a lie - a life different from what God kind of life is and therefore the need for “Truth”. Truth came through Jesus.

This truth had to come with grace because man by himself cannot rescue himself from the grip of sin. There medical doctors that know very well that smoking will damage their lungs and affect their health, yet they are smoking. They know that truth of the matter but they lack the enabling grace to be delivered.

God is wise and kind. He sent forth the truth and also asked grace to accompany it because he knows the weakness of man. The Father didn’t want us to just know the truth and die in guilt because we cannot help ourselves, no, he wants the truth to convict us and then grace will help out of our bondage to sin.

**Teachings of Jesus**

Just as none lived like Jesus, none has ever taught like Jesus.

**(Mark 1:22) And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes**

The Lord Jesus Christ taught as one having authority. His teachings surprised the audience most times. He had no apologies for their inability to understand what he was talking about. In any case and any circumstances, he told them the truth they needed to know.

He was not caressing their emotions as to say only those things they will be cool with. He told them the truth and he did this with authority.

Even today, none teaches like Jesus through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Jesus so spoke the truth to the people that at some point they decided to stone him to death.

**Chapter Four**

**THE GOSPEL THE EARLY CHURCH PREACHED**

It is a common and well accepted approach, to look at the footsteps of those that have walked a path before you in order to be able to reach where they reached and accomplish what they accomplished or something similar and in line with it.

The above is especially important if the goal we have set out to achieve is of great importance and if there are vicious enemies on the road who have carefully set up gutters, ditches and potholes for the travelers of such way to fall into.

The gospel as we had established earlier is the greatest message ever sent to mankind and still remains so today and will remain so till the end of time. A matter of that importance for sure will be a major target of the forces and agents of darkness.

Having the above in mind, it’s clear to us that if we want to walk the path of preaching the gospel, and teaching it well, in a way that it was intended in order to have the result that is expected, we must look carefully at how those before us did it and diligently learn from them.

We will look at what constituted the gospel message that the early church preached. This is a good reference point because most of the Apostles recorded in the scriptures were alive and around during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, were with him bodily and therefore had a first hand knowledge of what Jesus taught.

It will be safe and wise on our own part to stay within and very close to their own model of what the gospel really is and what should form the central message of the gospel.

**The Gospel Apostle Peter Preached**

**(**Acts 2:14-39**) 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.   
15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.   
16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:  
17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,  
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your young men shall see visions,  
Your old men shall dream dreams.  
18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants  
I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.  
19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.  
20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.  
21 And it shall come to pass  
That whoever calls on the name of the Lord  
Shall be saved.’**

**22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—   
23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;   
24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.   
25 For David says concerning Him:  
‘I foresaw the Lord always before my face,  
For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.  
26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;  
Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.  
27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades,  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.  
28 You have made known to me the ways of life;  
You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’  
29 “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.   
30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,   
31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.   
32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.   
33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.  
34 “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand,  
35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’  
36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”  
37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”  
38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.   
39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”**

Jesus, his death and resurrection was at the center and core of Apostle Peter’s message to those gathered on the day of Pentecost. We can say that this was the first open air crusade where the gospel was preached.

He went back to history through the scriptures, talked about the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah, how he was killed by a lawless act and went further to talk of the resurrection of the crucified savior Jesus Christ. For Apostle Peter, the scriptures was enough reference for the gospel to be preached.

He did not go into listing of the numerous miracles he has performed when the Master sent him out with other disciples to go and preach repentance to the Jews (the household of Israel). That was not necessary for the gospel and it is not also necessary today for the gospel.

The person of Jesus and the work he did is enough reference for the saving power of the gospel to be unleashed towards the listeners. Telling stories of what one accomplished in the past is insignificant in comparison to the work Jesus has done for all. The gospel is about Jesus and the work of salvation he has already done for us. It’s about Jesus.

Of course you can tell stories of what God has done but they must be told as testimonies and with the sole purpose of bringing glory to God through Jesus. Nothing of self and self glorification is useful or needed for the gospel message.

Note also that the gospel is not a story of defeat or shame. It is a victorious message. If the gospel story ended at the cross, or the grave, then misery would have overshadowed it’s narrative. But no, it proceeded to the resurrection because as David prophesied, God will not let his beloved know corruption.

Herein lies an assurance of resurrection after death for all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. None in Jesus dies, they fall asleep.

**(**1 Thes. 4:14**) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**

If you have a friend, a brother, a sister, a colleague or a co-laborer in the Lord’s vineyard who has died before now, don’t mourn for long or don’t mourn anymore for they sleep and shall be awakened at the returning of the Master.

As Apostle Peter preached the gospel, the gospel they heard made them to ask the question “What shall we do?”. If what you preach does not make lost men see their need for Jesus, it is not the gospel.

**The Gospel Philip Preached**

*In the city of Samaria*:

**(**Acts 8:4-8**) Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.   
5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.   
6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.   
7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.   
8 And there was great joy in that city.**

*To the Ethiopian Eunuch:*

**(**Acts 8:26-39**) Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert.   
27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,   
28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.   
29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”  
30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”**

**31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.   
32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this:  
“He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;  
And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
So He opened not His mouth.  
33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away,  
And who will declare His generation?  
For His life is taken from the earth.”  
34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?”   
35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.   
36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”  
37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”  
38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.   
39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.**

*“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.”*

*“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”*

Oh, we cannot stress this enough and it cannot be overemphasized that Jesus was, is and must remain the center of the gospel. Anything outside of this is devil’s meal no matter how polished it sounds and feels.

Philip went to Samaria and preached Jesus Christ, he met the Eunuch and preached Jesus to him still. There was no need to change the message because he was talking to educated or uneducated men, to the rich or the poor, to the peasant or to the price.

The message was the same and the gospel remained JESUS. This is because all human being regardless of sociocultural or socio-political status have a common problem. The same problem holding the touts in the market square bound is the same problem tormenting the professors in air conditioned offices. That problem is sin and Jesus is the only remedy.

Motivational speaking will not do it, advising and encouraging will not do it, fund raising will not do it. The only solution to the problem of sin is Jesus Christ.

That is the gospel Philip preached and he still made reference to the scriptures. It is very important we keep this in mind.

The gospel brought joy and rejoicing in both cases because the gospel is the good news, the greatest good news.

**The Gospel Apostle Paul Preached**

The Apostle Paul wrote several Epistles and in them he preached the gospel. He emphasized the realities of the new life in Christ and revealed many mysteries by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

**(Rom. 10:9-13) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.   
10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.   
11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”   
12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.   
13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

The vitality of believing in and confessing Jesus as Lord who died and rose again is outlined hear as the condition upon which salvation can be attained. Here, like in the other Apostles we have considered above, Jesus is still the center focus of the gospel Apostle Paul preached.

He went further to talk about the universality of the gospel: “for there is no distinction between Jew and Greek”. The gospel is to the whole of humanity without exception and salvation is for all who believe without exception.

**Some Teachings From the Epistles of Apostle Paul**

* THE NEW BIRTH

The fall of Adam brought the whole humanity under the bondage of sin and spiritual death (Gen. 3:1-19). God set a plan in motion to redeem man which was accomplished through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ on the cross. This death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has made it possible for man to pass from spiritual death to eternal life (John 1:1-13, 3:16).

It has translated us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Col. 1: 13. This is the new birth experience that takes place when we put our faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

**What does it mean to be born again?**

1. It is receiving in faith the very life of God – Eternal life. Zoe – The God kind of life. 1 John 5:11. John 3:16.
2. It is the complete removal of the nature of the devil in man introduced by the fall of Adam and imparting of the very nature of God (Re-generation of human spirit).
3. The mystery of new birth makes man new creation in Christ 2Cor.5:17. A new breed of man on the earth.
4. It means to be saved. John 3:17.
5. It's God's flight of delivering men from kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God. Col. 1:13.
6. It's God's high way of delivering men from the wrath to come i.e Hell fire. Rom. 5:9.

* WHAT PRODUCES SALVATION?

Redemption is for the whole world but salvation is for anyone that believes in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

**“……. That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Rom. 10:9-10)**

**How To Receive Salvation**

1. The person must repent from sin.
2. The person must believe in the saving power of the gospel. Rom.1:16.
3. The individual must believe that Jesus died in his place on the cross and raised again from the dead for his/her justification. Rom.4:25.
4. The person must confess Jesus as his/her Lord and personal Saviour.

* RIGHTEOUSNESS

There is a place in God that even the fowls of the air have not seen. And there is a place in God that is higher than the place of angels and the celestial beings.

This place is the place of man in right standing with God in fellowship and communion. This place was worked in righteousness by the righteous God Himself.

But the first man Adam lost it at the fall of man. The fall of Adam led to the lost of this place by man. Men lost the right standing with God. Rom.3:23, 5:12.

**What is the true righteousness?**

1. It is the Divine Nature of God that makes God accessible by man.
2. It is a place in God for humanity.
3. It is the ability to stand in the presence of the father God without the sense of guilt or inferiority.
4. It is a legal ground for man who is spiritually dead, in union with Satan, to become a new creation by recovering the very nature and life of God. This life and nature of God is Righteousness.

**What true righteousness is NOT?**

1. It is not right living and moral life.
2. It is not sincerity and integrity.
3. It is not a religious life of Does & Don’t.
4. It is not keeping of all the laws of sin and death.
5. It is not what you feel or think is right. Not any man’s ideologies and philosophies.
6. It is not attained in following church doctrines and theologies void of the true righteousness.
7. It’s not living in sin-consciousness to receive pity and compassion from God.

**How God made us Righteous**

Our standing with God is on the ground of faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, God laid upon Jesus our sins 2Cor.5:21.

“Him who knew no sin God made to be sin on our behalf”, Jesus was more than a sin offering. He was actually made sin with our sins. He was made unrighteous with our unrighteousness. As our sin substitute, bearing our sins and bearing us, He went to the place of suffering after He left His body. He stayed there until every claim of justice against us had been satisfied. He was our substitute, taking our place, being made sin with our sin. He went to the prison to which sinners were sentenced and suffered until everything against us had been met. It was deity suffering for humanity, and being deity He could pay the penalty.

When the supreme court of universe declared that what God had wrought in Christ was sufficient, that His sufferings were adequate and met every demand of justice, He declared that Jesus was justified or made righteous. Rom.4:25.

In 1Tim.3:16, Paul says that He was “justified in the spirit”. And in 1Peter 3:18 we read that He was “made alive in the spirit”. He was born out of death, so that He is called again and again “the first born from among the dead”.

God laid our sin upon Him. He was made to be sin, made to suffer our stead when He had met the demands of justice, death could hold Him no longer. He was “declared Righteous”. He was “made alive”. He became the “first born from the dead”- the Head of a new creation. Col.1:18.

When we believe in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, God is able to declare us righteous on the ground of what Jesus did. There are two phases to this righteousness.

First, God declares us righteous; and secondly we are made new creations. We become partakers of the Divine Nature, so that we are righteous by nature and righteous by faith. Now we can understand 2Cor.5:21, “Him who knows no sin God made to be sin on our behalf.

Why? “That we might become the righteousness of God in Him”.

As surely as God made Jesus sin, God made us righteous the moment we accepted Him.

“Being justified freely by His grace, being made righteous freely by His grace” through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. “He declares that we are made righteous freely by His grace through the redemption that was in Christ Jesus. He did this “for the showing, I say of his righteousness because of the passing over of the sins done a foretime, in the forbearance of God.”

**Chapter Five**

**THE PLAN OF THE FATHER**

The plan of the Father is that he want to unite the whole world back to himself through his Son Jesus Christ.

**(Acts 4:12) Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**

**(John 14:6) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

As far as God is concerned, there is no colleague or alternative to His only begotten son Jesus Christ through which salvation can be gotten. The early church understood this and we can say from considering the above verses that they learned it from the Lord Jesus directly.

On this matter, regarding the the Father’s plan for the salvation of mankind, Jesus was not unclear or ambiguous. Clearly he said “I am the way”, not that he is a way. If he said that “I am a way” or “I am one of the ways” then we would have had rooms for others to serve as a way as well. But no, he was categorical, Jesus is the way and the only way to the Father.

No other person, whether living or dead, no saint and no angel can lead man to God. The only channel of access to the Father is Jesus Christ and if you follow any other path, you have missed the road and can never get to the Father.

The program of God to save man from eternal damnation is that God was in Christ calling the whole world to himself, not counting their sins.

Jesus was the sacrifice. By the blood of Jesus we will be redeemed and set free from the condemnation and damnation that await sinners. Jesus was the sacrifice for our freedom. The plan of the father is that it is only in Jesus that men can be set free. Any other thing is not the gospel, any other thing is not the program of the Father.

**(**Rev. 1:5-6**) and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,   
6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

In this kingdom there is no failure. What we have is kings, prince and princesses and royalty. Everyone washed in the blood of the spotless lamb is a legitimate son of this kingdom with rights and privileges.

**(**John 1:12-13**) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:   
13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

God did not plan for any of his children to live without rights and privileges. If human kings and dynasties give their citizens rights and privileges, how much more our God from whom all royalties proceed.

Our God wants his sons and daughters in the world to operate in glory and majesty that reflect His personality. That was his plan from the beginning but sin came and disconnected man from this glorious plan of the father.

The coming of Jesus and the redemptive work of the wounded Messiah was an express display of the Father’s plan and heart desire for humanity. Jesus came to take care of the sin problem once and for all.

**(**Rom. 8:1**) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rom.+8:1&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-28118a" \o "See footnote a)] do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**

Nobody on earth is qualified to set man free. Nobody in heaven is qualified to set man free, not even the angel. It is through the blood of Jesus. The program is simple, Jesus had to come down here on earth because for God to be just and the justifier of them that believe in him, he has to come down to pass through the things that men pass through. He has to come here on earth as a man to have flesh and die for man. The penalty of the sin of Adam was death. For the wages of sin is death.

**(**Rom. 6:23**) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Jesus had to come and die to pay for us. That is the program of God.

Immediately after the death of Jesus, when we receive him as our Lord and personal savior by believing and confessing him, the first thing He does for us is to give us eternal life.

**(**John 3:16**) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

And through His son He gave us His eternal Spirit and eternal life. This eternal Spirit brought us into the very family of God; a family where God is our father and our God; a family of priests and kings; a family of kingdom of priest where Jesus Christ is the High priest of a new and better covenant; a family instituted by Jesus Christ Himself, Him being the Head and we the body, which is His Church.

**Christ the Only Way**

We have established that religion, works, ordinances and the rest cannot save a man.

There is only one who can save and that one is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the way, the only path and access to the father.

**(**John 14:6**) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

It is all about Jesus and not religion, not works, not morality. Christ, the Son of God is the one and only savior. He is the way, not your church, Moses, your doctrine, Buddha, Priest, Pastor, Pope and others. All these cannot give you life.

The Bible is very clear on this position in the book of (Acts 4:12)

**"Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name given under heaven given to man by which they can be saved except by the name of Jesus".**

No church, no individual or any other thing can save you. You will not go to heaven because you joined the church. Religion cannot save your guilty soul. You will have to be converted, just like anybody else and accept the one who died to make you whole.

You will not also go to heaven because you do your best, work and pray, efforts and the rest. They are in vain if you don’t build on the foundation of faith in the finished work of Jesus for the salvation of your soul.

The only guarantee to heaven is that you need to know and accept that you need a savior that would grant you eternal life and that person in not any other person rather than Jesus. He died that we might have life. He purchased our redemption for us on the cross of Calvary.

**What you must do**

It would be unwise to think that since God has provided salvation, there is nothing for you to do. Salvation has been provided, but you must accept it. You must cooperate with the Holy Spirit to bring the great and glorious plan of the Father to pass in your life. It is your duty to allow Him into your life as your personal Lord and savior.

It does not matter how long you have been in church, how old you are in ministry or how educated or rich you are. If you have never gotten to that place of deliberate decision to trust completely on the finished work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary and make him the Lord and savior of your soul, then you are still in danger of eternal damnation.

As many that have received him, he gave them the power to become the sons of God (John 1:12). Life is a product of decision and so also is your salvation. We need to decide now to receive Him.

**Chapter Six**

**WOMEN MINISTRY**

This chapter is because over the years as an evangelist, I have found out that women are not encouraged or even in worst cases are not allowed to participate fully or even participate at all in the ministry and fulfill their God given callings and mandates.

This cannot be God. For God cannot put resources in what he created that will not be used. The much we have known of God over the years, by records in the scriptures and by my experiences in his service, God is not a wasteful God. Jesus in line with this commanded that the left over from the feeding of the crowed be gathered.

We can safely say, that if God put abilities in women, He intended for those abilities to be used. If he put the gifts of the Holy Spirit in women, he intended for those gifts to be manifested. Having this in mind, it becomes clear that any attempt to stop one from serving God in any capacity because of gender is not the work of God. It could be best described as a veiled attempt of the devil to prevent destinies from being fulfilled by the instrument of ignorance or arrogance on the side of men.

Even in the ministry of Jesus, women ministered to him. And we cannot be more godly that Jesus who himself is God.

Allowing and letting women fulfill their God-given calls and ministry is cooperating with God and doing otherwise will be opposing God. My earnest desire and prayer is that after going through this book, we will all choose to cooperate with the Father in fulling his callings in the lives of the women around us and not fight him by opposing them.

Ministry in the simplest definition is service. So whenever we talk about ministry we are talking about acts of service either to God or humanity in our context now.

However so many controversies surround the role of Women in ministry from the days of the apostles down to our time-their role, responsibilities, contribution has been a thing of much dilemma and controversy.

**Brief History of the Place of the Woman In Ministry**

* Genesis 1:26 & 27. God's creation of man (no gender inserted) and no description of roles.
* From Genesis 2:7, we see man becoming a living soul with flesh and blood and having a responsibility.
* Genesis 2:8, God is acknowledging the fact that a man ought not to be alone and that birthed the first ministry of the woman-HELPER TO A MAN (THE HUSBAND).

**Nb**: Perhaps this would have been the only given ministry of the woman if the fall of Adam and Eve hasn't taken place.

**The women of the old testament**

Mostly, the women of old were subservient according to the culture of the Jews prevalent at that time, but the bible shows that God's pattern, order and norm for the sexes must allow for the prominent, public and significant contribution of women.

**These women include;**

**Miriam**: the prophetess along with her brothers Moses and Aaron shared the leadership of Israel (Mich 6:4; Exodus 15:20). She was a great woman leader, blessing lives with her prophetic songs.

**Deborah**: A prophetess and Judge of Israel who resolved disputes with the wisdom of God (Judges4:4).

**Jael**: A woman of courage who was used by God to kill an enemy king (Judges :21).

**Abigail**: who eventually became the wife of king David distinguished herself when she acted against her wicked husband's wishes thereby saving her household (1 Sam 25).

**Esther**: A queen and saviour for her people.

**Huldah**: A prophetess of Israel (2 Chron. 34)

**The New Testament Women**

Mary Magdalene and other women were among Jesus’ close friends and the first to be met by Jesus after his resurrection. Mk 16:9; Mat 28: 1-10.

**Mary and Martha**: the sisters of Lazarus were Jesus’ close friends and Mary herself was taught at the masters feet at a time when women were not taught by rabbi. Lk 10: 38-42

**Joanna**: the wife of Chuza (Herod's steward) and Sussana ministered unto Jesus with their substance. Lk 8: 2-4.

**Priscillia**: wife of Aquila together were mentioned by Paul as ardent teachers of the word and helpers in that ministry. Acts 8.

**Phoebe**: servant and helper to Paul and the church at Cenchrea. Roms 16:1

Others include Rahab (the harlot Heb 11:3) and Junia Roms 16:7 etc.

**Controversies Surrounding The Ministry Of Women**

Much of the prohibitions/oppositions faced by women in ministry are based on some chapters in the bible written by the Apostle Paul.

Texts include: I Cor 14:33-35; 1 Tim 2: 11 & 12; I Cor 11:3; Eph. 5: 22 & 23.

**REASONS FOR THIS SUBSERVIENCE**

1. The story of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden for many in the time of old and today implicated women and put them in a position where they always have to be watched and kept far from where decisions that matters are taken. Although this stand was never endorsed or promoted by God, yet men held on to this over the years and even today in the churches.
2. Biblical era society was very male dominated . The status of women were much like that of children. It would have been scandalous for a woman to take up a leadership role over a man.
3. The biblical era woman was not educated and mostly confined to domestic duties. A woman would not have had the education needed for a teaching job.
4. The young Christian community in the Mediterranean area were already looked upon as hotbeds of dangerous heretics by the pagan majorities. The Apostle Paul and other church leaders were very concerned about avoiding any appearance of scandal that would make a bad impression on the people they wanted to convert to Christianity or worse used as a tool to persecute the church.

**NB**. 1 Tim 2:8-15 Paul's letters to Timothy counselling him on how to deal with a troubled Ephesus church-a port city known for it's fertility cults and temple prostitutes. The city may also have been the site for an emerging philosophy which taught that the woman was created before the man and that she was superior to the man, therefore any truly enlightened woman wouldn't marry and have children.

**PAULS PROCLAMATION OF EQUALITY**

Although he accepted that people may have different roles, the apostle Paul proclaimed that all believers are equal in God's sight . Gal 3:26-29.

**Women of the Nineteenth Century**

Aimee Semple Mcpherson: The founder of the Foursquare gospel church and the first radio presenter.

Mariah Woodworth Ether: A demonstrator of the Spirit.

Katherine Kulman: The woman who believed in miracles.

**Women in the Five Fold Ministry**

Apostles: Junia (Rom. 16:7)

Prophets: Deborah, Miriam, the three Virgin Daughters of Philip the Evangelist, Anna.

Teachers: Priscillia

Evangelists: Mary Magdalene, Mary