



# **The Original Gospel of Jesus Christ**

**A Bible Study**

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# The Original Gospel of Jesus Christ

The Apostle Paul warned the churches of Galatia...

Galatians 1:6-12 (KJV)

<sup>6</sup>I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

<sup>7</sup>Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup>But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

<sup>9</sup>As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

<sup>10</sup>For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

<sup>11</sup>But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

<sup>12</sup>For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Someone was preaching another gospel other than the one the Apostles had first preached.
- Paul said that there is not another gospel – the original would never change.
- Paul warned that if he or even an angel from heaven preached any other gospel, let him be accursed (banned from speaking – excommunicated).
- Pleasing men (giving people what they want to hear) will change the original gospel. (Also see, II Timothy 4:3,4.)
- The gospel of Jesus Christ did not come from man's mind — it's from God — it's His plan.
- Galatians was written between 49-56 A.D. — Paul wrote this letter to the Galatians 16-23 years after Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and birth of the Church (Acts 2).

Jude 1:3 (KJV)

<sup>3</sup>Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

- Jude was written between 66-80 A.D. — 33-47 years after Pentecost (the birth of the New Testament Church).
- Even at this point in church history, Jude says there is a common salvation (no changes, nothing new).
- Jude admonished the church to earnestly contend for the faith...
- And, *it* (this common salvation) was *once delivered* to the saints — not upgraded to something different.

Both Paul and Jude point back in time to the original Gospel of Jesus Christ, as it was *first preached* by the Apostles.

**Where can we find, in the New Testament, the original Gospel message, as it was preached by the Apostles? (Keep in mind, it was the New Testament Church that preached the original Gospel.)**

1. Is it in the book of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John?
  - Each writer tells the story of the birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. Is it in the book of Acts?
  - Acts tells of the birth and early history of the New Testament Church.
3. Is it in the Epistles?
  - The Epistles are letters written to the established churches or individuals in the Church.

#### 4. Is it in Revelation?

- John writes mostly about the future – prophecy of the end time.

To find the answer, let's first look into the books of Luke and John to find some clues...

John 3:1-8 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup>There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

<sup>2</sup>The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

<sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup>Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

<sup>8</sup>The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

- Nicodemus was a secret believer in Jesus Christ.
- Jesus said that we must be born again – not of flesh – but of the Spirit (Holy Ghost).
- No one can see or enter the Kingdom of God without being born of the water and the Spirit (Holy Ghost).
- Everyone that is born again will have a sound accompanying their new birth (Jesus used the "sound" of the wind as an analogy of what will happen at each new birth).

The following verses tell us **when** believers were promised to receive the Holy Ghost that Jesus had told Nicodemus about...

John 7:37-39 (KJV)

<sup>37</sup>In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

<sup>38</sup>He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

<sup>39</sup>(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

- Jesus said that those who believe on Him, as the scripture says, will have “rivers of living water” flowing from their belly (inside) – John explained Jesus’ words in verse 39...
- “Rivers of living water” is the Holy Ghost.
- According to John, believers in Jesus Christ should receive the Holy Ghost.
- The Holy Ghost was “not yet given” until after Jesus was glorified.

John 16:7-8 (KJV)

<sup>7</sup>Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

<sup>8</sup>And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

- Jesus told His disciples that it was expedient (good) for them if He went away.
- Jesus said that if He did not go, the Holy Ghost would not come to them.
- Jesus also said that **He** would send the Holy Ghost.

The following verses show a scene after Jesus' resurrection...

Luke 24:44-53 (KJV)

<sup>44</sup>And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. <sup>45</sup>Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

<sup>46</sup>And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

<sup>47</sup>And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

<sup>48</sup>And ye are witnesses of these things.

<sup>49</sup>And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

<sup>50</sup>And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

<sup>51</sup>And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

<sup>52</sup>And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

<sup>53</sup>And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

- Jesus opened their understanding of the written Word of God (Old Testament).
- Jesus told His disciples to preach repentance (change of mind – turning from and abandoning a sinful lifestyle) **and** remission (freedom; pardon:—deliverance, forgiveness, liberty) of sins.
- He said to preach repentance and remission of sin **in His name** – “Jesus”.
- Jesus said to preach this message to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

- Jesus said that He would send the promise of the Father (Holy Ghost).
- They were to **wait** in Jerusalem **until** the Holy Ghost power was sent from on high.

**Jesus always pointed ahead to a future church that would receive the power to be witnesses of Him and then preach the original Gospel. (Also see Acts 1:8.)**

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Now, let's look into the book of Acts...

Acts, Chapter One, records Jesus ascending into the clouds. He left, just as He said He would. Let's see what happened about ten days later...

Acts 2:1-4 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup>And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

<sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

<sup>3</sup>And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

<sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- Jesus did just as He said – He filled the believers with the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost.
- They all spoke in tongues as the Spirit enabled them (see John 3:8, page 5).

Acts 2:5-13 (KJV)

<sup>5</sup>And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

<sup>6</sup>Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.



<sup>7</sup>And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

<sup>8</sup>And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

<sup>9</sup>Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

<sup>10</sup>Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

<sup>11</sup>Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

<sup>12</sup>And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

<sup>13</sup>Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

- The multitude that gathered was confused and amazed.
- The believers of Jesus Christ were speaking in the languages of the world, declaring the wonderful works of God.
- The multitude that gathered did not know what was happening, so they asked, "What meaneth this?"
- Some even thought the people were drunk.

Acts 2:14-18 (KJV)

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

<sup>15</sup>For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

<sup>16</sup>But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

<sup>17</sup>And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

<sup>18</sup>And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:



- Peter declared that what they saw and heard was Joel's prophecy being fulfilled — "In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh."

Acts 2:36-39 (KJV)

<sup>36</sup>Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

<sup>38</sup>Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>39</sup>For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

- The crowd that gathered was convicted by Peter's preaching, so they asked, "What shall we do?"
- Does Peter preach what Jesus told him to preach?
  - He did preach repentance **and...**
  - He did preach water baptism, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins **and...**
  - He did preach that they all would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- Peter said that this promise was even for those "afar off." That includes everyone today.

Around seven years later, Peter went to Cornelius, a Gentile, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ (see Acts 10:1-38).

Acts 10:39-48 (KJV)

<sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

<sup>40</sup>Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly;  
<sup>41</sup>Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

<sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

<sup>43</sup>To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

<sup>44</sup>While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

<sup>45</sup>And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>46</sup>For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

<sup>47</sup>Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

<sup>48</sup>And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

- Peter explained to Cornelius' household what Jesus had instructed them to preach, while Jesus was with them.
- Peter preached remission of sins "through his name" (Jesus! — the saving Name).
- As Peter preached, the Holy Ghost fell on all of them that heard the word.
- The Jews that came with Peter were astonished because the Gentiles also received the Holy Ghost just as they had back in Acts 2.
- They heard them speak in tongues just like the day of Pentecost, about seven years earlier.
- Peter then **commanded** them to be baptized in the name of the Lord (Jesus).

About 13 years after Cornelius' conversion, Paul preached the same Gospel to believers he found in Ephesus...

Acts 19:1-6 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

<sup>2</sup>He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

<sup>3</sup>And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

<sup>4</sup>Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>6</sup>And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

- Paul found believers that had never heard about the Holy Ghost. They were only baptized by John the Baptist.
- They were re-baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- Paul laid his hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues.

Finally, let's look into the Epistles...

Along with Galatians 1:6-12 and Jude 1:3 mentioned earlier, consider these verses...

1 Corinthians 15:1-7 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

<sup>2</sup>By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup>And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

<sup>5</sup>And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

<sup>6</sup>After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

<sup>7</sup>After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

- Paul reminded the Corinthian church what he had preached to them — the Gospel they had believed.
- Here is the Gospel – **repentance** (we must die to sin — completely turn from it), **remission of sins in Jesus' name** (we must bury the old sinful man in Jesus' Name — water baptism), and **the promise of the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues** to every believer (we must receive the resurrection power of the Holy Ghost).

**So, where do we find the original Gospel message of Jesus Christ preached?**

## **Conclusion:**

- **The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John** do not have the New Testament Church established in them — only the promise that it was to come. In these books, Jesus instructs His disciples to wait for the Holy Ghost baptism — then, they would be empowered to preach the Gospel that He had taught them to preach (Luke 24:44-49).

- **The book of Acts** is the only place to find how the Gospel of Jesus Christ was originally preached by the Apostles – first in Jerusalem, then, to the uttermost part of the earth.
- **The Epistles** were letters written to the established churches or individuals in the Church. The Epistles all refer back to the same Gospel found in the Acts of the Apostles. They never changed the original Gospel.

## There is only ONE Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Once again, let's look at Paul's warning to the Galatians...

Galatians 1:6-9 (KJV)

<sup>6</sup>I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

<sup>7</sup>Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup>But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

<sup>9</sup>As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

- There is only one Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Neither Jesus nor His Apostles ever intended for anyone to change the Original Gospel message.
- If someone preaches any other gospel, he is eternally condemned!
- The Gospel that was revealed to the New Testament Church in the book of Acts is the only Gospel of Jesus Christ to preach and obey!

# Review

1. T or F — Paul warned the churches of Galatia not to listen to any Gospel other than the one he had originally preached.
2. T or F — Jude declared that the church had a “common salvation” and it was “once delivered” to the saints.
3. T or F — Jesus told Nicodemus that every person must be born again of the water and Spirit to enter and see the Kingdom of God (John 3).
4. T or F — The Holy Ghost was not given until Jesus was glorified and ascended to heaven. Then, on the Day of Pentecost, the Church was born.
5. T or F — Jesus instructed His disciples to preach repentance and remission of sins in His name (Jesus) to all nations.
6. T or F — Jesus told His disciples to wait, in the city of Jerusalem, for the promise of the Holy Ghost.
7. T or F — Acts, Chapter Two, records the birth of the New Testament Church and the original Gospel message preached (Act 2:38), consisting of:
  - Repentance (turn from and abandon sin)
  - Water baptism in Jesus’ name for the remission (forgiveness) of sins
  - The Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues (promised to every believer)
8. T or F — Seven years after Pentecost, Peter preached the same Gospel to Cornelius and his household. They received the Holy Ghost and were baptized in Jesus’ name (Acts 10).
9. T or F — About 13 years after the conversion of Cornelius, Paul preached the same Gospel to the believers in Ephesus (Acts 19) with the same results as Acts 2 and 10.

Answers: all True

