

## Repent And Believe In The Gospel

'The Holy Spirit of the Lord God is on Me, because God has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the humble. He has sent Me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the (spiritual) prison to those who are bound (by sin, sickness or mental illness), to proclaim the year of God's favour and the day of vengeance (Judgement Day) of our God, to comfort all who mourn (Gentiles), to appoint to those who mourn in Zion (Jewish people), to give to them a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the (evil) spirit of heaviness (depression) so they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord so He may be glorified' (Isaiah 61:1 to 3). These verses are the words of Jesus in prophecy spoken before He was born on earth. He was sent by God to preach the Gospel of the eternal Kingdom of God. "The Father Himself Who sent Me has testified about Me ... I have come in My Father's name" (John 5:37 & 43). "Believe I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. The words I tell you I speak not from Myself, but the Father Who lives in Me does His Own works through Me ... The Word you hear is not Mine but the Father's Who sent Me" (John 14:10 & 24). "Behold, I (Jesus) stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to them and will dine with them and they with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is a powerful message. We need to preach the powerful Gospel of the Kingdom and teach about the extraordinary ministry followed by the blood sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, not a watered down Gospel often preached today. Jesus said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all the nations and then the end (of this age) will come" (Matthew 24:14). 'Jesus came into Galilee preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God saying, "The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand! Repent and believe in the Gospel!"' (Mark 1:14 & 15). Jesus said, "I must preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to other cities. For this reason I have been sent" (Luke 4:43). 'I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, the Jew first and also for the Gentile' (Romans 1:16). 'You were sealed in Jesus with the Holy Spirit of promise, having heard the Word of the Truth, the Gospel of your salvation, in Whom you believed. The Holy Spirit of promise is a pledge of our inheritance to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory' (Ephesians 1:13 & 14).

The word 'Gospel' means good news or good tidings. 'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings good tidings, who announces peace, who brings good news of good things, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns" (Isaiah 52:7; Nahum 1:15; Romans 10:15). The Hebrew translation goes something like this; 'How comely on the mountains are the feet of the one who brings good tidings, proclaiming Shalom (peace), who brings good news of good things (events), announcing salvation, saying to Zion, "Elohim our King reigns." The good news brought by the feet of One from the mountains in Jerusalem is Jesus our Mediator. 'There is one God and one Mediator between God and mankind, the Man, Jesus our Messiah' (1 Timothy 2:5). The four Gospels in the New Testament bring us the good news everyone needs to hear. That good news is eternal salvation through believing, having faith in the blood of Jesus our Saviour and Mediator, and developing a close walk with God, the orchestrator of our salvation.

Righteous Job cried out for a Mediator between God and mankind. "God is not a man as I am that I should answer Him so we should come together in judgment. There is no umpire between us Who might lay His hand on us both ... Oh, I wish I knew where I might find Him so I might come to His seat! I would set my cause in order before Him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words He would answer me and understand what He would tell me. Would He contend with me in the greatness of His power? No, He would listen to me ... Oh, that I had One to hear me! Behold, here is my signature, let the Almighty answer me" (Job 9:32 & 33; 23:3 to 6; 31:35). 'Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry as He is the Mediator of a better covenant ... He is the Mediator of a new covenant' (Hebrews 8:6; 9:15). There is no better news we can receive than to know our sins are forgiven, covered in the blood of our Messiah, Saviour and Mediator, Jesus of Nazareth. All we have to do to receive eternal life is to accept Jesus into our lives, repent of our sin, believe in Him and live in obedience to His Word, the Bible. 'Blessed is the one whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is covered' (Psalm 32:1).

The Gospel challenges us to face the fact we are all sinners, we all need to repent of our sin so we can be forgiven because without repentance there can be no forgiveness (Mark 1:4). Once we have repented and are walking with God, we will receive true peace so deep we cannot comprehend it nor can we describe it. 'God entrusts His own love toward us because while we were yet sinners, Jesus died for us' (Romans 5:8). 'Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:38). 'The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Messiah Jesus' (Philippians 4:7).

Amen and God bless you.

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