

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL --

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Having grown up in an apostate Protestant church, I did not hear the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ. Even as an adult in my third decade, after I made that one time decision to trust in Jesus as my savior, I was amazed how the good news presentations were weak and diluted by words and phrases that do not even appear in the Bible. (A list of those phrases appears at the end of this document.) They were phrases that were stumbling blocks to my understanding of the way, the truth, and the life.

Since Johnny clearly teaches that the power of the church (the collective body of those who have placed their trust in Jesus for the erasing of their sins and receiving the gift of eternal life) determines whether our culture is dark or light (and the brightness thereof), clarification of what comprises the good news of Jesus Christ seems paramount. May this collection of verses reveal and/or enhance your understanding of:

The Good News of Jesus Christ!

Connie Tatum

Important points to know when presenting the good news of Jesus Christ:

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

The wages of sin is death – separated from God.
Jesus is God.

Jesus is our sin substitute. He took our sins upon Himself.

Jesus went to the cross and died in our place.

Jesus took our penalty of separation for all eternity on our behalf.

Every person who makes a one-time decision to trust in Jesus as his savior has all his sins erased and receives the gift of eternal life.

Note: (JM Tatum) *refers to Johnny M. Tatum's translations from either:*

the Septuagint {Old Testament} or

the United Bible Society's Greek Critical Text {New Testament}

The importance of using Scripture when presenting the good news of Jesus Christ

The word of the LORD is pure,
bringing faith into the soul. Psalm 19:8 (JM Tatum)

The unfolding of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:130

I have more insight than all my teachers,
for Your testimonies are what I hum. Psalm 119:99 (JM Tatum)

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Psalm 119:89

You light my lamp;
the LORD my God illumines my darkness. Psalm 18:28

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the spoken voice of Christ.
Romans 10:17 (JM Tatum) {“remah” – the spoken voice of Christ through Holy Spirit}

O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me. Psalm 43:3

As for God, His way is blameless;
The word of the LORD is proven; Psalm 18:30 (JM Tatum)

Every word of God is tested and proven;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Do not add to His words
or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.
Proverbs 30:5-6 (JM Tatum)

He sent His word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destructions. Psalm 107:20

Sanctify them {set them apart} in the truth;
Your word is truth. John 17:17

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17

THE BAD NEWS:

(Understanding the bad news is necessary in order to understand the good news)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death Romans 6:23

“death” in the Bible never refers to extinction; the word means “separation”
from God – true for all who do not trust Jesus as their savior.

“the second death”: those who appear before the Great White Throne
judgment seat will be separated from God for all eternity

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*,
he has become guilty of all. James 2:10

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and
the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8

Therefore, just as through one man {*i.e.*, Adam} sin entered into the world, and
death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God,”
They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds;
There is no one who does good. Psalm 14:1

For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived,
enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life
in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. Titus 3:3

And He {*Jesus*} was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the
man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications,
thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality,
envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile
the man.” Mark 7:20-23

Now the deeds of the flesh are manifested in these ways: immorality, impurity,
sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes,
dissensions, factions, envying, thinking stupidly, acting stupidly, drunkenness, carousing,
and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those
who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21 (JM Tatum)

THE GOOD NEWS:

*Jesus is God (holy and righteous),
the one and only person who can deliver a human being
from the ultimate consequences of his sin →*

SEPARATION FROM GOD FOR ALL ETERNITY IN HELL

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him
nothing came into being that has come into being.

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ...

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father,
full of grace and truth. John 1:1-4, 14

You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. John 8:32

Jesus said to him {Thomas}, "I am the way, the truth, the life;
no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:6

If you say Jesus is God, and trust with your will that God raised Him from the dead,
you will be saved; for one trusts with the will, producing righteousness,
and one agrees {i.e., he is a sinner} producing salvation. Romans 10:9-10 (JM Tatum)

Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed;
save me and I will be saved. Jeremiah 17:14

They {Paul & Silas} said, "Trust in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. Acts 16:31

And to him who responds to what he knows {i.e., "what he knows is true"}
I shall show the salvation of God." Psalm 50:23 (JM Tatum)

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,
so that we would die to sin and live to righteousness;
for by His wounds you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24

I have been crucified with Christ;
and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh I live
by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20

For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever
trusts in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

If we confess our sins {i.e., a one-time act}, He is faithful and righteous
to erase our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:8-9 (JM Tatum)

For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves,
it {faith} is a gift of God;
not as a result of works,
so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (JM Tatum)

In all things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other created thing,
will be able to separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord .
Romans 8:37-39

SAMPLE PRAYER TRUSTING JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR:

Dear Heavenly Father,

According to Your word (the Bible),

I am a sinner.

I cannot save myself from the consequences of my sin.

But I choose to trust Your Word that says, because Jesus loved me,

He took my sins in His body (in the Garden of Gethsemane),

He went to the cross and died in my place - as my substitute –

paying the penalty for my sins in His body,

of being separated (in outer darkness) from God for all eternity.

I am putting my trust in You, Jesus, as my savior.

Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me, erasing my sins, and giving me eternal life.

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Ephesians 2:8-9

Galatians 2:20

1 Peter 2:24

Isaiah 53: 4-6, 10-12

Acts 16:31

John 14:6

1 John 5:13

For a thorough explanation of Jesus' actual substitutionary death,

go to "The Life of Jesus" series and listen to lessons #58 and #59.

For those who make this one-time decision to trust in Jesus as Savior, the Bible offers magnificent promises for protection and provision in this life and for a life of ecstasy throughout eternity.

See the document on the front page of RadicalGrace.com entitled...

"Promises for those who trust in Jesus as Savior"

For those who refuse to trust in Jesus as Savior the Bible gives clear warnings about the horror that awaits them in an eternity in the black emptiness of hell.

See the document on the front page of RadicalGrace.com entitled...

"WARNINGS FOR THOSE WHO REJECT The Truth"

WHAT the Gospel IS NOT

(Note: None of these appear in the Bible!)

"ASK JESUS IN YOUR HEART"

"COMMIT / GIVE / SURRENDER YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST"

"TURN FROM YOUR SINS"

"MAKE JESUS LORD OF YOUR LIFE"

"BE WILLING TO FOLLOW JESUS IN OBEDIENCE"

"ASK JESUS IN YOUR HEART"

Rather: *Ask Jesus to be YOUR savior.*

If you say Jesus is God,
and trust with your will that God
raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (JM Tatum)

"COMMIT / GIVE / SURRENDER YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST"

Note: This implies some kind of vague verbal ritual = a work of the flesh.

Rather: Jesus, I choose to place my trust in You as my savior.
I know that you died on the cross in my place,
taking the punishment for my sins.

"Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Acts 16:31

"TURN FROM YOUR SINS"

Rather: Turn to Jesus – THE way, THE truth, THE life –
no one comes to the Father except through Jesus. John 14:6

"MAKE JESUS LORD OF YOUR LIFE"

Note: Another command that implies some kind of ritual / work of the flesh.
He is / always has been Lord, even Lord of lords.

Rather: Totally scrap this one. See above "Rather"s.

"BE WILLING TO FOLLOW JESUS IN OBEDIENCE"

Note: This implies continuous focus on the performance of your flesh.

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit,
are you now being perfected by the flesh? Galatians 3:3

Rather: for God is the one bringing it about in you,
both the desire and the doing of what pleases Him.
Philippians 2:13 (JM Tatum)

Explanation of the verse: *This verse states clearly that, since we do not have the ability to please Him or the desire to please Him, God takes it upon Himself to produce our desire. He also takes upon Himself the responsibility to produce the desired results in our lives. (JM Tatum)*