

# Living the True Gospel

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Living the true Gospel of Christ is a *choice*—and we are *free* to choose our way of life, but we are *not free* to choose the *consequences* that come with our choices. Galatians 6:8 “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

Millions of religious *organizations* give millions of religious *messages* over the air waves; online; and in churches—and each one believes they are giving the true Gospel. But the *message* they give would have to include real *trust* in God and real believing *faith* in the Blood of Jesus, for it to be the *true Gospel* of the first century.

The Gospel Jesus gave was a Gospel to *free* His followers from the troubles of *this* life—but this fact has been ignored by the average church today. The word *Christian* means a *follower of Christ*. Anyone who says they are a Christian but is not living by faith every day as Jesus did, is *not* a Christian—since they are *not* following His teaching. Romans 8:9 “Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

A person cannot truthfully say they are a Christian, if they are not controlled by the Holy Spirit. Many *proclaim* to be a Christian—but all too many are *none of His*. Millions of religious organizations claim to give Christian *doctrines*, but if we really look into the *teaching* and *lifestyle* of those heading the ministry, we would see how far from the true Gospel they have *drifted*, and how many of Satan’s substitutes they have *accepted*.

The Gospel of Christ *delivers* us from the power of sin and Satan—*delivers* us from physical illness and oppression; *delivers* us from lack of essential needs; *delivers* us from destructive addictions; *delivers* us from unscriptural desires; and *delivers* us from unscriptural attitudes of the world. Jesus came to give *back* to us what the devil took *from* us. Jesus shed His Blood to give us His righteousness, peace, health, financial needs, and victory over oppression.

Satan has a *counterfeit* for every aspect of the Gospel. For true *inward* spirituality, he has *outward* morality, religious *appearance*, church *membership*, and other outward displays of faith. Satan has a substitute for every blessing God has given us through His Son. If we substitute *trust on God*, with a *counterfeit trust on something else*, it will eventually lead to the lake of fire—that is the final outcome of accepting Satan’s substitutes.

It takes the full *Truth* of the true *Gospel* message of Jesus Christ and nothing less—to prepare us for Heaven. Our eternal interests are *so important* that we must understand this, because 1 Peter 4:18 “If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

The true *Gospel* includes true *righteousness* by faith in the Blood of Christ; which also includes inner *peace*; good *health*, divine *healing*, and every *need* supplied every day in a scriptural way—no borrowing; no hinting; no medicine; and *no substitutes*.

Satan has a *million substitutes* for healing—such as: therapy, medication, prescription, pills, surgery, drugs, remedies, and a multitude of hospital treatments. If the devil can get someone to accept his *substitute*—at *high* cost; they will not receive the benefit of divine healing from God—at *no* cost. God can only work effectively when Satan’s substitutes are refused.

All of God’s blessings are *received by faith*; and all of Satan’s substitutes include *no faith*. We have a strong tendency to only believe in things we

can *see*, rather than accepting the Word and believing a God we *cannot see*.

A man asked Jesus to John 4:47 “Heal his son: for he was at the point of death.” The Master replied 48, “Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.” The man wanted *sight* instead of *faith*. Satan would be suggesting that he should *see* Jesus heal the boy—but wanting to *see* would *rob* the man of God’s deliverance *by faith*.

Jesus said John 20:29 “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” By faith in the *Word*, we can have what we *need*. Mark 11:24 “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

It does not say; if you *see* them, you *know* you have them; but “Believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” It is an *act of the will* to believe *first*. Jesus then said John 4:50 “Go thy way; thy son liveth.”

Jesus gave the *Word* and the *opportunity* to believe and to act in faith. The nobleman did not listen to Satan’s substitute, and accepted Jesus’ true Gospel. That *attitude* saved the life of the boy and brought his whole family into God’s Truth.

John 4:50-53 “He believed the words of Jesus, and started back home; and he was already on his way down when his servants met him and told him that his son was alive and well. So he inquired of them at what hour he had shown improvement. ‘Yesterday, about seven o’clock,’ they replied, ‘the fever left him.’ Then the father recollected that that was the time at which Jesus had said to him, ‘Your son has recovered,’ and he and his whole household became believers.”

Naaman the Syrian first went to the *king of Israel* instead of the *prophet in Israel*. When Elisha told him to wash in the Jordan, he wanted to wash in the Abana or Pharpar Rivers instead—substitutes of Satan. Naaman was willing to *learn*, so God opened his spiritual *eyes*.

His servants said 2 Kings 5:13-14 “If the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not

have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?" He was willing to accept the word, so he <sup>2 Kings 5:14</sup> "Dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

The woman seriously oppressed of the devil was accepting Satan's substitutes for twelve years; <sup>Mark 5:26</sup> "And had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse." When she rejected these substitutes of Satan, the Lord said <sup>Mark 5:34</sup>, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." The decision to trust on God's power alone brings victory and healing and blessings.

David was offered a substitute, but God enabled him to make a right decision that delivered him from a mortal enemy. David and his bodyguard entered the enemy camp during the night. This is an example of Satan's substitute and the spiritual victory awaiting those who refuse counterfeits.

David could be free from his troubles with a nod of his head. His bodyguard said <sup>1 Samuel 26:8</sup> "God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time."

Abishai could have added: *We will get away safely—all that stands between you and the throne will be out of the way. His army will scatter when they see that their king has been killed—your troubles will be over.* But it was the devil's substitute and a human way out of trouble. We can be tempted to accept a human plan to obtain a desired result; but the world's way is never the right way.

What a temptation—just nod his head and be free of his enemy. David may have been deep in thought; with Satan pouring in suggestions—*Don't let this slip by; don't miss this opportunity—it is the*

*chance of a lifetime—your enemy sleeping at your feet; your bodyguard waiting to strike; and you only have to say: Go ahead—the King has it coming!*

It was a wrong and alternative plan, so David said: <sup>1 Samuel 26:9</sup> "Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?" Abishai probably thought his leader was foolish to let that opportunity slip through his hands.

But God enabled David to reply <sup>1 Samuel 26:10-11</sup> "As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed." David knew he could not avenge himself as <sup>Deuteronomy 32:35</sup> "It is mine to avenge; I will repay" <sup>Romans 12:19</sup>.

When we take the same attitude, Satan's power is finished. When we will not accept any substitute for the true Gospel of trust on God, we will enjoy the same blessings. David's decision was final—and his enemy did "descend into battle," and later committed suicide on Mount Gilboa—going straight to the lake of fire because he took a human life and could no longer repent.

Three Hebrews were living the true Gospel. They only had to pretend to bow to a statue—but that is the way Satan works. His substitutes are painted in bright and alluring colors, but God's plans are always painted dark and foreboding shades. The devil can do that, if we allow him to influence us.

Human hands made and set up the statue—it was inspired by the devil to deceive and destroy those who yielded and worshipped. The law was designed to have the Hebrews accept a substitute, instead of God's reality. The story is well known—with the furnace heated seven times its intensity, which would have vaporized anything going near it.

But they refused to bow, so God <sup>Daniel 3:28</sup> "Sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him." Even the smell of smoke was not on their clothing. The king had to admit that <sup>29</sup> "There is no other God who can deliver like this." God is waiting to do the same for us today—if we will refuse to accept Satan's substitutes.

Every blessing in this life is waiting to be given—victory in the home; healing of the body; money for each day; ability and strength to do our work; harmony in the home; and every other good gift God wants us to enjoy.

Living the true Gospel God has given us includes protection, peace, provisions, and victory in every aspect of life. <sup>Proverbs 10:22</sup> "The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it."

Everything we need in this life—righteousness; peace within; finances; health; strength; and protection—are to be received in God's way—and according to His plan of trust on Him—not on any substitute. God can pour out His blessings, as we learn to reject Satan's alternative plans and accept the true Gospel God has given everyone!

Living the true Gospel is a choice—and we are free to choose our way of life, but we are not free to choose the consequences that come with our choices. <sup>Galatians 6:8</sup> "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."



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