

Getting the Story Straight

based on *The Gospel-Driven Life: Being Good News People in a Bad News World*, Michael Horton (Baker: 2009)

What IS the “Gospel”?

1. How important is it that we “get the gospel story straight”? Galatians 1:6-9
2. How does the Bible define the word and the concept “gospel”? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
3. When were you saved?

Close, but not quite: Popular Misconceptions of the Gospel

1. “A personal relationship with God”
 - a. When does someone begin having a personal relationship with God? (Romans 1:21)
 - b. What is one danger of thinking about the gospel in this way? See Romans 1:18-25
 - c. The true gospel does not offer the possibility of a personal relationship with God, but announces a *different* relationship with God based on Christ (Romans 5:8-11)
2. “Asking Jesus into your heart”
 - a. The phrase is not found anywhere in Scripture! Nor is “praying the sinner’s prayer...”
 - b. Who needs to be relocated—Jesus or me? In other words, WHAT IS THE PROBLEM that “Jesus in your heart” is supposed to solve? (2 Corinthians 5:20-21; HC #2)
 - c. What is the danger of thinking about the gospel this way? Is this the gospel we preach?
 - d. NT pattern of how to be saved is different! Acts 16:30-34
 - e. The gospel is something Outside of us, done to us. Getting born again is not the result of our coming forward or surrendering our heart to Jesus. Getting born again is God’s work done to us, and the faith we respond is something God works in us by the Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel (1 Peter 2:21-25; HC #21)
3. “Making Jesus your personal Lord and Savior”
 - a. Another phrase NOT found in the Bible
 - b. The Good News is so good because it simply announces what is already true! Lord and Savior is Who God is, not something we make Him to be for us. He was Lord and Savior before we asked Him to be, or wanted Him, when we were “ungodly,” “sinners,” and “enemies” (Rom. 5:6-10).
 - c. Faith receives, it does not make. At the Creation, God did not say, “Let it be possible!” He said “Let there be Light! And it was so.” God’s recreation of our souls as His children is the same—a result “not of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).