

THE GOSPEL BY WHICH WE ARE CALLED

In the world there are a great many gospels that are being taught, but the Bible teaches that there is only one gospel that can save us from our sins. As Paul wrote in Rom. 1:16, this gospel of Christ is "God's power unto salvation." That means that this gospel is the avenue through which we receive God's power for the salvation of our souls.

That gospel was delivered by Jesus Christ when He lived on this earth as a man and died on the cross for our sins. After He rose from the dead, He commanded His disciples to preach His gospel throughout the whole world (Mark 16:15-16). That gospel has been preached by the apostles and prophets and it is recorded for us today in the New Testament Scriptures. Concerning that gospel, Paul wrote in Galatians 1:8, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." We see then, not only the need to be saved through the gospel, but also the need to be saved through the one true gospel.

Do you desire salvation? If you believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God then you can have salvation through His gospel. The word of God teaches that we must do the following:

1. Hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17)
2. Believe in Jesus Christ (Mark 16:16)
3. Repent of our sins (Acts 2:38)
4. Confess Jesus as Lord (Rom. 10:9)
5. Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16).
6. Live faithful to God.

BIBLE CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Our focus is learning and teaching God's word in order that all "may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4).

To this end, we provide opportunities for anyone desiring to learn more about what the bible says on any subject.

We can study with you in person, via email correspondence, or in any way that is convenient for you.

If you are interested in learning more about what God has to say in the bible, you can contact us using the information provided on the front page of this pamphlet.

If you would like to study more on your own you can find bible class material and other study tools available on our website at

www.avondalechristians.com

"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

-John 8:31-32-

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The members at the Avondale church of Christ are eager to welcome you to our bible study and worship services. So that you may know a little more about us we offer this informational pamphlet. Inside you will find information such as biblical principles which we strive to uphold as a New Testament church, service times, a brief summary of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and available bible classes. If you have any questions please feel free to ask any of the members here.

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

-Colossians 1:18-

OUR SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

In Col. 3:17 Paul commanded, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." "In the name of" means "by the authority of." Therefore, as the church that belongs to Christ, our goal is to worship Him according to His will as provided in God's inspired word, the Bible. There are many methods, many activities, many ideas that people use in order to do more as a church. But appealing to the authority of Christ sometimes requires that we set aside our own ideas, as good as they may seem, in order to adhere to God's specific commands. Only when we are serving the Lord His way can we truly be pleasing to Him—

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). For this reason one will not find many of the activities that are so popular in the world taking place in this congregation. Since it is the gospel of Christ that we preach, we strive only to preach it in a way that Christ would approve. It is the work of the Lord's church that we are trying to accomplish, so we limit ourselves to the work, and methods of accomplishing that work, that the Lord has commanded us in the New Testament.

We also believe that God's word supplies us with *"everything pertaining to life and godliness"* (2 Peter 1:3), and that His word is able to make us complete if we pursue it with all diligence (1 Tim. 3:16-17). Therefore we believe that if we work together with love for one another and love for the truth, then we can do as Paul said, "...speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). We encourage all men to set aside all human standards of authority and to pursue the pattern delivered to us in the New Testament. *"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God"* — 1 Peter 4:11

ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

Services Times

- Sun. 10:00 am: Bible Class
Sun. 11:00 am: Services
Sun. 6:00-7:00 pm: Services
Wed. 7:00-8:00 pm: Bible Class

The church is the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27). And Christ is the head of the church: "And He is the head of the body, the church..." (Col. 1:18). As such it is essential that we function as the head directs us. This also includes the way we conduct our worship. As Jesus said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

To worship God "in spirit" means to have the right attitude. We must also seek to glorify and honor Him by worshipping Him "in truth," according the pattern revealed in the bible—the word of truth (Eph. 1:13).

In the New Testament, we find only five elements which Christians used in their worship to God:

- Singing: Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19
- Praying: Acts 12:12; Eph. 6:18
- The Lord's Supper: Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-26
- Giving: 1 Cor. 16:1-2
- Teaching: Acts 20:7; 2 Tim. 4:2

In following the teachings of Christ, we encourage all men to set aside human traditions in their worship and only worship God in spirit and in truth.

"By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified."

-Leviticus 10:3-

GOD'S PEOPLE AT WORK

As laborers in God's kingdom, we are commanded to serve Him diligently and faithfully (Heb. 6:11-12). As Christ served us by giving His life for us, so we offer our lives in service to Him.

As the Scriptures also teach, we must flee the things of the world and pursue godliness and truth, such as pleases our God. It was for this reason that Jesus purchased us according to Titus 2:14, "...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

Therefore, as a local congregation of God's people, we strive to do those things that Christ gave His church to do. For example, as a church we spend much of our efforts edifying or building up one another through the teaching of God's word. *"...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"* (Eph. 4:12). We also spend much time and effort preaching the gospel to the lost so that they too may have salvation. *"...preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15). We care for our widows as they have need. *"Honor widows who are really widows"* (1 Tim. 5:3). We strive to fill whatever need our brethren may have. *"...YOU have ministered to the saints, and do minister"* (Heb. 6:10). God also says that if a congregation is unable to care for its own physical needs where disaster has struck, we can provide resources to help them. *"Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea"* (Acts 11:29).

In addition to our activities as a local congregation of God's people we also encourage one another, as individual Christians, to take advantage of opportunities to do good unto all men (Gal. 6:10).