



## Kingdom Values - 1 THE GOSPEL

THE GOSPEL - *Preaching salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone in our church and community.*

Just before He returned to heaven, Christ commanded His followers is to preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations (**Matt. 28:19**). As Gospel Lifers, we have always viewed the Gospel Commission as the primary rationale for the existence of our church community. Of all our group's core values, we consider the Gospel the most important because it defines who we are and what we're all about. Our Statement of Belief declares:

"We believe in the primacy of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Bible as our only source of authority (*Sola Scriptura*). The gospel is the distinct truth that sinners are saved by grace alone (*Sola Gratia*), through faith alone (*Sola Fide*), based on the finished work of Christ alone (*Solo Christo*), to the glory of God alone (*Soli Deo Gloria*). We believe that Christians are commanded by Jesus to preach this Good News and to make disciples of all nations."

Gospel Life began in 1997 when a few of us said to each other that we were going spend our lives sharing the Gospel (that's why we chose the name "Gospel Life"). We began this ministry by devoting many evenings to sharing Basic 10 gospel lessons in small groups. Almost all of our members learned about the gospel and accepted Christ as their Savior through Basic 10. I remember how many of us were thrilled about hearing the Gospel for the first time. We could not believe how gracious God is.

Salvation is God's free gift to sinners who are unable to obey His law, and therefore, undeserving of eternal life. God gives this gift to me through His Son, Jesus, who came to suffer the penalty that I deserve in order for me to receive the life that I don't deserve. I receive salvation by believing in Jesus as my risen Savior and declaring to the world that He is my Lord.

*Keys to the Kingdom*, the new Basic 10 edition, is not merely a modified version of the older lessons, but a new

presentation of what Christ called "*the Good News of the Kingdom*," which He commanded His followers to preach to all the world before the end comes. It reflects my updated understanding of God's complete plan of redemption. It is, in fact, the story of God and humankind from creation to glorification.

The core message of the new Basic 10 is this: God saves us for a grander purpose than merely avoiding eternal punishment in hell. We are saved so we can be restored to God's original purpose for humankind – to rule earth in accord with Heaven's Kingdom principles.

This is the Good News: Salvation is the gift of a gracious God to undeserving sinners. Unrighteous man is declared "not guilty" and accepted into the Kingdom of God because God imputes (credits) the righteousness of Christ and His death to the guilty sinner. The sinner's acceptance is based on what another person did outside of him (extrinsic righteousness), and not based on his own (intrinsic) righteousness. The transaction ("Justification by Faith") is completed instantaneously when the sinner accepts Jesus by faith.

The moment a person is justified by faith, he is born again and he receives the Holy Spirit, who is the divine agent for the fulfillment of the New Covenant. This covenant was ratified by the blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary, thus opening the way for the Holy Spirit to write God's law in man's heart. The Holy Spirit guarantees the new believer's complete restoration to God's kingdom by living in him. The Holy Spirit fulfills God's promise of a full life in Jesus Christ by empowering the believer for witnessing and giving him special abilities (spiritual gifts) for service and for exercising his earth dominion authority against enemy spirits (spiritual warfare).

Jesus has commissioned us to bring this Good News to our world. This is the mission of Gospel Life and every "born-again" follower of Jesus. As Gospel Lifers, we have no greater priority than sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom. We exist for this very important life-mission. This is my lifework and yours.