

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

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The Gospel Is...

By: Dan Jenkins

One of the most amazing qualities about the Bible is that as God reveals His will for our lives, so many vital truths can be expressed in so few words. To see this, look at the letter Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia. Paul had established these churches and his letter to them gives great insight into profound truths about the gospel.

The gospel is unique. He had preached the gospel to them, but they had failed to continue in their devotion to the truth. “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him that called you into the grace of Christ to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ” (1:6-7). They were turning away from the gospel, thinking there were other gospels. There is one gospel and any change to the gospel results in a perverted gospel. It is unique and there is nothing worthy to be compared to it.

The gospel is teachable and receivable. In the next verses, Paul reminded the Galatians how their salvation involved his preaching it (v. 8). The Great Commission was to preach the gospel, and those saints had received it (v. 9). If it is teachable and receivable, then it must be understandable. This is exactly what happened when those churches began.

The gospel is unalterable. There is no authority for even the apostles to add to or take away from the gospel. “But even if we...preach any

other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (1:8). There is not authority for any angel from heaven to change the gospel. “But even if...an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (1:8). There is no authority for any person who has ever lived or who shall ever live to alter truth. “If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed” (v. 9).

The gospel is certifiable. “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man” (1:11, KJV). The Greek word for “certify” involves more than stating it. God not only revealed the truth, but He certifies that it is truth. He who was the way, the truth and the life spoke the truth, and it was accompanied with miracles. He who was truth gave the truth to the apostles and first-century prophets. It was accompanied with more miracles. “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs” (**Mark 16:20**).

We have the truth. It has been certified. Let us learn it. Let us live it. Then let us faithfully teach it to others without any change. That is His plan!

Give Me the Bible, Not “Sola Scriptura” (Part 1 of 6)

By: Selected

Many people have asked over the years, “So you believe *sola scriptura*?” I remember the first time someone ever asked me something like that—I had no idea what they were talking about. I had never heard of “*sola scriptura*.” I’ve been in some Bible studies where a person will say, “Of course you would say that! You’re *sola scriptura*!”

At first, it may sound, on the surface, like a good thing to believe in “*sola scriptura*.” After all, it is simply a Latin phrase that means, “by Scripture alone.” Isn’t going “by Scripture alone” a good thing? What could be wrong with believing or claiming “*sola scriptura*”?

Consider for a moment that this is a phrase that was made up by a group of men to describe a certain belief system. As such, the phrase actually has some different understandings about how it is applied and exactly what it means. For example, does it mean that “Scripture alone” is sufficient or that “Scripture alone” is the authority or something else? Interestingly, among those who hold to “*sola scriptura*,” there is variation in its explanation. Not to mention that those who do not hold to “*sola scriptura*” have their own understanding of what the phrase means and what people believe who espouse it. All of that can be kind of confusing.

Here’s the better practice: Rather than take a position that aligns with a manmade slogan (without knowing exactly what it means, or exactly what those who hold to it believe it means, or exactly what those who deny it believe it means) and rather than take a position that questions or repudiates the belief system, what if we just go to the Bible itself, read the Bible for what it says for itself and then use Bible terms

to explain what the Bible teaches? Let’s see where that leads and what we can know (for certain) from that endeavor.

Bible certainty #1: ALL Scripture in the Old Testament and New Testament is inspired of God. The Bible says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (**2 Tim. 3:16**), or “breathed out by God” (ESV). Bible writers recognized Divine guidance of their words: “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue” (**2 Sam. 23:2**). While they “inquired and searched carefully” to fully understand what they were writing, they understood that their words were coming from “the Spirit of Christ who was in them” (**1 Pet. 1:10-12**). “We have received...the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak...which the Holy Spirit teaches” (**1 Cor. 2:12-13**). Peter stated simply, “...holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (**2 Pet. 1:21**).

Where did Scripture come from? (More next week)



Upcoming Events

Tonight: Monthly youth devo here at the building. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sat. April 26: Men’s breakfast at 7am and Congregational work day open to all to follow at 9am. Please see Doug Jobs if you have any questions.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Allen Clifton who will be undergoing radiation treatment. Allen also had a procedure done last week.

Helen Cannady who is dealing with thigh pain.

Brian Baros, friend of Bryce & Barbie Dolan who has inoperable brain cancer.

Naomi Flonnory who had gallbladder surgery this past week.

Eddie Serenil who responded to the invitation last week.

Therisa Gant’s brother, Ray D. Littles and husband, George Gant, who have cancer.

Rick Bass who has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. He will be going to Baylor in Houston to see what his next steps are.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of April 13, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Willie Fossati
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread.....Mike Atkinson
Cup.....Caleb Lehtinen
Offering..... Desmon Flonnory
Assist..... Ferman Rosales
Assist.....Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer.....Rick Bass
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Clifton Rutherford/
Bryce Dolan

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassCody McCoy
Song LeaderLuke FitzSimmons
DevotionalJames Cammock

Other

Prepare Communion..... Sandy Miracle/
Connie Kaspar

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Kelly Cannady.....Apr. 14
James Hicks.....Apr. 16
Jake Jacobs.....Apr. 16
Nia FitzSimmons.....Apr. 17
Joseph Sheeran.....Apr. 19

Anniversaries

Robert & Pam Stryker.....Apr. 14

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper,
and every tongue which rises against you in
judgement You shall condemn. This is the herit-
age of the servants of the Lord, and their right-
eousness is from Me," says the Lord.
Isaiah 54:17 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of April 6, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....49
A.M. Worship.....96
P.M. Worship.....54
Wednesday Worship.....49

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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