

## Lesson 5: The Definition of the Gospel Part 2

### What the Gospel IS NOT

Lesson 5 Objective: To gain awareness of false “gospels” and to be on guard for ourselves and others.

#### I. Addition of works to the gospel

- A. The testimony of Scripture: Over 160 NT verses teach faith alone
- B. NT history: Early attacks on the gospel
- C. Grace lost by end of 1<sup>st</sup> century
- D. Positive impact of the Reformation
- E. Negative impact of modern academia

#### II. Removal of content from the gospel

- A. The prosperity “gospel”
  - Reversion back to the pagan religious system of *quid pro quo*: A transaction with God
- B. The crossless “gospel”
  - The sole requirement for justification is believing that Jesus guarantees eternal life, knowledge of His death and resurrection is not necessary.
- C. The self-centered “gospel”
  1. Making church “relevant”
  2. Under-emphasizing and redefining sin
  3. Over-emphasizing the present
  4. A lack of urgency

As with the prosperity gospel, a focus on self and not Christ

#### III. Understanding repentance

- A. Basic definition: To change the mind
- B. Two understandings:
  1. To change one’s mind about the gospel offer, to change one’s mind about the Person and work of Christ from disbelief to belief, from rejection to acceptance.
  2. An internal resolve to turn away from sin
    - a. For unbelievers (Lk 24:47; Ac 17:30)
    - b. For believers (2 Cor 7:8-10; 2 Tim 2:24-26)
- C. Conclusion:

Regardless of which we understanding we choose, **the biblical evidence is clear that repentance is not necessary for justification**. The word is not used in the Gospel of John and used only once in the Book of Romans.
- D. Repentance is a necessary component of sanctification salvation in dealing with present-tense sin. Repentance is part of confession of sin according to 1 John 1:5-10

***The gospel in ten words:  
Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead.***