

What is the Gospel?

(part 3)

2Co 4:3-7 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: **4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. **5** For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

This study is a little different than what I usually present, because part of it is about a man who preaches a false gospel, and who has a ministry of hate because of it. I want you to see the dangers of what can happen when you don't know the real gospel, and how demons cloak evil and malicious doctrines under the language of the Bible. Please bear with the first part of this study, as I expose this false prophet, and address some gospel words to him, in hopes that he too might be saved.

There is a preacher in Rutland, Vermont, who I have no respect for, because he is a hateful and bitter man, who never shows an ounce of love or compassion, who thinks that his whole mission in life is to always be right, and to always prove everybody else wrong. He is always saying that this pastor, or that theologian, or this entire group of people, are going to hell, because they worship a false God, if they don't share his particularistic view of the atonement. To him everyone who is not willing to say that the gospel is conditioned on the limited atonement is a God hater, and they are not regenerate. He has an entire website¹, and a so called church, that is nothing but a hate ministry, based around this one false premise. Anyone who believes in anything other than a limited atonement is almost as bad as the devil himself. He not only condemns the shameless Arminians to hell, but his list of Calvinists is almost just as extensive. To this man, who prides himself on his "Heterodoxy Hall of Shame", the list of reprobates does not just include Arminius Pelagius, Wesley, Whitfield and Finney; But it also includes all of these distinguished men as well: Lousie Berkhof, Loraine Boettner, Horatius Bonar, Thomas Boston, John Calvin, Thomas Chalmers, Gordon Clark, David Gay, A.A. Hodge, Charles Hodge, W.G.T. Shedd, R.L.Dabney, J.Gresham Machen, Jonathan Edwards, Jason Kortering, Herman Hoeksema, Richard Mouw, John Murray, Ned Stonehouse, John Owen, J.I.Packer, A.W. Pink, John Reisinger, Robert Schullar, Billy Graham, Charles H. Spurgeon, Joel Beek, Anthony Burgess, Gene Breed, Jerry Bridges, John Bunyan, Martin Luther, Harold Camping, Don Fortner, Norman

¹ <http://outsidethecamp.org>

Geisler, John Gill, Robert Haldane, Bill Parker, Bobby Bullington, James Henley Thornwell, Matthew Henry, William Huntington, Max Lucado, John Pedersen, Bernard of Clairvaux, Thomas Aquinas, Desiderius, Erasmus, William Perkins, Thomas Hooker, Thomas Shepherd, William Ames, Richard Sibbes, Joseph Alleine, William Guthrie, John Piper, Doug Kuiper, Ron Hanko, Bill Parker, Ernest Reisinger, Tom Ascol, Roger Nicole, Robert Reymond, Samuel Richardson, R.C. Sproul, Edward Fisher, Thomas Boston, Andrew Fuller, Stephen Charnock, Samuel Rutherford, Ian Murray, James Benjamin Green, Clement Read Vaughn, Givens Brown Trickler, A.W.Tozer, Cornelius Van Til, Thomas Watson, James White, Kenneth Wuest, Robert Haldane, D.M. Llyod-Jones, and John MacArthur. This I'm sure is only a partial list of the abominable God-haters who are going to hell because they don't meet the perfect standards of Marc Carpenter, who is God's sole interpreter of scripture on earth. I know this is only a partial list, because I am also on His list of God-haters. Needless to say, the greatest theologians and preachers of all time have been quickly dispatched to hell, where they belong, according to Mr. Carpenter. Every seminary in the country would have to throw out the majority of their theological library, because all the books were written by God-haters. This is what happens when men, like Marc Carpenter, twist the gospel to fit their theological persuasions, and allow themselves to think that they have the monopoly on salvation truth, and everybody else is going to hell. The people in His church need to fire him and drive him out of Vermont, because he is one of the worst spiritual blights in their state. Even Jehovah's Witnesses believe that at least 144,000 will be saved, but Mr. Carpenter thinks it's him and the twelve apostles only.

This man not only consigns individuals, who don't share his warped view to hell, but he rejects the historic documents of the church, saying that they are wicked God-hating documents. This includes The Westminster Confession of Faith, The London Baptist Confession of 1689, The Augsburg Confession, The Heidelberg catechism etc. He has taken it upon himself to write the only true Confession of faith, and he named it "The Christian Confession of Faith". Since it is true that out of the heart the mouth speaks, you can rest assured that this confession is just as evil and hateful as the man who wrote it. Not only that, he List's many denominations and organizations which were also hatched in the pit of hell.

I'm not sharing any of this to draw attention to one heretic who thinks he's the 13th Apostle, I'm pointing this out to show you what happens when you haven't got a clue about what the gospel is, and what it actually does. Here's a man who thinks he knows that the gospel could not possible save Charles Spurgeon, who led tens of thousands to Christ by actually preaching it. Marc Carpenter on the other hand, has never preached it once, even though he thinks he has. You cannot preach a message that you are unfamiliar with. And of course nobody in the entire realm church history could have ever been saved according to Mr. Carpenters gospel conditioned upon his hyper limited atonement, because his

gospel is not the gospel at all.

I'm not going to waste your time exposing his article of "Essential Gospel Doctrine"² You can read it the pitiful thing for yourself. He is obviously ignorant of the essential gospel, because it is none of the things that he says it is. He's not even close. The gospel is not about God's Promises, understanding God's Predestination, knowing the People whom God will or will not save, Any Kind of imaginary Conditions, (there are no conditions in the gospel), or a perfect understanding of the Atonement. None of these things qualify as the gospel. In fact, none of them are even remotely part of the gospel except maybe the part that God keeps his promises about salvation. The gospel, contrary to Mr. Carpenter is not what you do, or do not know, about it. It's not about what you believe or think about it. If it was, then everyone, including Mr. Carpenter would be on the list of God-haters and on the road to hell, because nobody believes or thinks exhaustively, or correctly, about all the so called "Essential Gospel Doctrines". The gospel is not about a core group of doctrines that you must understand or believe. This is exactly the essence of Mr. Carpenters heresy. He thinks that he has distilled the essence of the gospel into his website, and teachings, and in fact, he does not have the foggiest idea of what the gospel is, or what it actually does in the hearts of men. That's why I know without a doubt that it is Mr. Carpenter who is a God-hater, and who is on His way to hell. He is deceived and is deceiving others. According to him, most of the genuine Christians and God-fearing preachers of history, are blind ignoramuses and God-haters, But it is he who is blind, and the sad part is he's the perfect example of "the blind leading the blind". Lost men are not qualified to teach about "Essential Gospel Doctrine", because their gospel is false.

Mr. Carpeneter makes the gospel, all about believing in his imagined theory that it is "**conditioned exclusively on the atoning blood and imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.**"³. Now, this certainly sounds Biblical, and most people just buy into this hook line and sinker. And that is the way Scripture quoting demons always work. They take Bible verses and Bible terms and redefine them to make them mean what they do not actually mean. When Mr Carpenter insists that the gospel has "conditions" in it, whatever those conditions are, he is simply trying to trap the innocent, or people who do not have more than his elemental understanding of Doctrine. When he insists that the Gospel is "Conditioned on" the atoning blood and imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, it sounds good, but in actuality it is the code word that establishes his false gospel. This definition is the definition of a false gospel. Because to Mr. Carpenter, if the gospel is conditioned on the blood and the atonement, that means that anyone who is saved will have perfect "knowledge" about the atonement and the blood. In the third statement of the same definition of the

² <http://outsidethecamp.org/egd.htm>

³ The Christian Confession of Faith, written by Marc Carpenter Article V. Paragraph B "The Gospel" #1

gospel the truth of this deception clearly comes out. **No man ever has, or ever can be, saved apart from the knowledge of this gospel, ...Scripture rejects the lie that a regenerate person may be ignorant of the gospel.** I have been studying Mr. Carpenters false doctrine for many years, and anyone who visits his site will see crystal clearly that the basis for all his vindictive hatred is this false notion that every regenerate person will have full knowledge of the limited (not universal) atonement. That is the "condition". To Mr. Carpenter, anyone who has wrong thoughts about the atonement, is a person who is ignorant of the gospel and therefore is unregenerate, and anyone who speaks peace to an unregenerate man, is himself also unregenerate. This is how all of historic Christianity is unregenerate in Mr. Carpenters apostolic eyes. He has hundreds of pages of negative rant about people who don't believe the gospel, because they believe something wrong about the atonement. It is impossible for anyone to be saved without the right view of the atonement. To Carpenter, you don't know the gospel, and you can't possibly be saved, if you don't believe in a particular atonement which excludes all who don't understand it perfectly. That is what the gospel is conditioned upon according to Mr. Carpenter. And I am telling you unequivocally, that it is a false gospel. Understanding the Atonement is not a condition of receiving it. If it were, then nobody could ever be saved, because only the Father and The Son know everything about the atonement.

All of Mr. Carpenters verses are useless to his argument, because his basic thesis is in error, and no verse says that we have to know about the atonement to receive it. The code language Mr. Carpenter uses to disguise his heresy, and to condemn multitudes of God's elect to hell, is simply a disgusting misuse of Scriptural language with the sole purpose of deceiving people. A child of God, knows the gospel, not because he believes certain propositions about it. A child of God knows the gospel, because it gives Him the life of God, a new heart, and an eternal relationship to the person, whom the gospel is about. Mr. Carpenters gospel is nothing but the old Gnostic heresy, that "knowledge saves". Christians don't need to know anything about Mr. Carpenters false gospel, and they certainly don't need to agree with any of his imaginary "Essential Gospel Doctrines" in order to be saved. They have to know Christ, because the gospel is about Him. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Mr. Carpenters "knowledge conditional gospel" can't save anyone, and He is proof of that. He is altogether lost, as anyone can tell who visits his abominable hate site.

Just like he screws up the doctrine of the atonement, he also screws up the words "faith" and the word "believe". He cloaks both of those terms with false definitions also, but I will not go into that now.

Since I will be sending him a copy of this, I would take this moment to preach the true gospel to Him. Maybe he will repent and meet Christ. Marc, that's the gospel...Meet Christ! Flee from your self-righteous, self-perfection, knowledge based, imaginary salvation, and meet the One who is the Truth, that you claim to know so much about. He's the only hope for you... not your knowledge...not

your hatred for God's chosen servants...not your perfect doctrine. Christ alone can take away your stony heart and give you a heart of flesh. Only Christ can take the bitterness, and hatred out of your carnal and dead mind, and give you the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and make you love the ones whom Christ loves. You are an enemy of Christ, and it shows clearly by your hatred for the ones whom He loves. Love covers a multitude of sins, and that includes doctrinal imperfections. But you cannot know anything about any of that, because you have built your whole false ministry of hate, upon exposing other peoples doctrinal flaws. Well, now you have been exposed, and it is you who comes up wanting. It's time to quit slandering God's people, and quit lying about the gospel. You need to come under the power of the gospel, and then you might be qualified to love people instead of hate them. Meet Christ, and then you might be able to explain the doctrines of the Bible. You deceive yourself, and all your followers, if you think you are saved, based on your imaginary "Knowledge of the gospel." Your right, "Scripture rejects the lie that anyone may be saved who is ignorant of the gospel". And that's exactly the problem with you. You are ignorant about the gospel, because you think it's about knowing a bunch of theologically correct propositions about it. That's not the gospel at all. The gospel is Christ, reaching down and saving people like you, who are totally ignorant about the gospel, and showing them the truth that the gospel is God's power unto salvation. The gospel is Christ conquering the wicked hearts of dead men like yourself, and bringing them to life by grace. And his power to save has no conditions. Even the chief of sinners will be saved, when they Meet Him! You don't know the gospel, because you don't know the person who it is about. You are an unconverted, scripture quoting, God-hating, Pharisee, hypocrite, and nothing more. That which you have sown, is coming back upon your own head. You have sown discord among the brethren, and you enjoy it. You have sowed a whirlwind, and you will reap destruction. God's people have tried to talk to you about your hardness of heart on numerous occasions, and you are so blind, that you simply rip them to shreds, and post their letters and your hateful responses, on line, like they are some kind of trophy's. You are a hard, cold, callous and wicked man. Instead of taking everything people say to you out of context and shredding it, you need to actually listen to what people are telling you, because they are perceptive about your self-infatuated hardness of heart. A Christian would not say what you have said about God's dear Children. People who love the Lord, and who are loved by him, are loved not because of what they believe. They are loved because he chose them and saved them by grace. Their views, their understanding, or lack thereof, have nothing at all to do with Christ's love for them. If you are such an astute person, as you think yourself to be, and if you are such a faithful Christian minister, as you pretend that you are, Then why is there not any of Christ's Spirit on your site? Why isn't there something there to lead lost men to Jesus? Obviously you don't give a damn about getting lost men saved, you are only concerned about making saved men look lost! That's warped and twisted. Why isn't there some edifying truths on your site about "How Christians ought to forgive one another, and esteem others better than themselves"? Or how come you don't have any edifying thoughts on what it

means “to love your enemies”? Why don’t you try something constructive on your site, like teaching people how to be soul winners, and how to pray, and how to have a transformed mind that resembles Jesus and not Lucifer? I don’t see anything Godly, or humble, or truthful at all on your site. In fact your site is only about one person...you! It’s not Christian at all. Your site makes a mockery of God. Because when you quote the Bible, it is only so you can reinforce your own self-importance, and tear other people apart, who have more humility and Christ-likeness in their little toe, than you have in your whole body and soul. That is twisted and gross, that’s not Christianity. If you are a Christian minister, then why don’t you take a second look at your “Orthodoxy Hall of Fame“, that you so stupidly have put in public view, where you basically tell the whole world that there are no orthodox Christians whom you can endorse, throughout all the 2000 years of Christian history, except the Prophets and Apostles of the Bible. You can’t endorse a single known Christian in all of church history? That ought to clue you in that there is something seriously wrong with you! It is really you who are lost!

Meet Christ! That is the gospel. He is speaking to you, about your great need. If you are not reprobate, as I fear you might be, but if you are not; then listen to His call. Hear His truth, telling you that what you know, cannot ever save you. Only who you know, can bring you to heaven. You don’t know Him, because He is the Truth, and you don’t have any of that. You think you know Him, but you only know of him. He is a person, not a collection of Scripture verses about doctrines. Meet Him! Meet the living and transforming person of Christ. Meet Him, and then you might become qualified to tell others how to meet him. He is a living person, and not a bunch of ink on paper. Who knows? if you meet Him, you might even receive an actual call to the ministry! He certainly will want you to do some serious unlearning, of all your self-created myths and heresies, and doctrines from demons, but He is capable of giving you a new mind. I know that for a fact. He could even give a wicked person like you a new mind...the mind of Christ; that is unless, He has already given you over to a reprobate mind, and made you so hard, that it is impossible for you to ever hear the true voice of Jesus calling you to humble yourself, and bow at His feet. Humble? Yes that’s a word that we cannot find on your site. We certainly can find no examples of it. That’s for sure.

I’ve written to you before, on several occasions, and I know that you still have my letters, but since you continue to slander God’s servants on your vile website, and continue to bring reproach to the word “Grace” (which you need to experience), I have taken it upon myself to use you as part of my third lesson on my site, about “What is the gospel?”. That is a question, to which I hope you find out the correct answer. Christ will give you the answer to that question, if you will meet Him! That’s all I want to say to you. I’ll pray that God saves you, and that you will remove your hate speech from your website, and install some truth and love in it’s place. Should you repent and believe, Christ will expect you to take down your condemnations of His elect children, and issue a formal

apology to the world, about preaching lies for so many years, and being so hateful and Lucifer like. Now I will continue teaching my readers what the true gospel is.

The gospel is about Christ seizing the heart of poor lost sinners, and calling them into the kingdom of God. The gospel is about poor lost men, looking up to God and saying "God be merciful to me a sinner". Of course people are saved only through the effectual vicarious atonement of Christ. That is the river that brings them the life of God. But they don't need to understand it. God understands it, and that's all that counts. The thief on the cross was surely saved, and God tells us nothing about his understanding of the atonement. He is saved, because Christ called Him, regenerated Him, and gave him new life on his deathbed. It's about the love and mercy of Christ, and His power to save anyone He chooses. The thief was saved, without Mr. Carpenters "conditional knowledge of the atonement". He did not know about the atonement, instead He had it applied directly to His soul. He did not know about the blood. But He was washed in it. That's the difference between a false gospel and the true. The false cannot save, no matter what a person thinks or knows. The thief on the cross met Christ, and received His atonement without any conditions at all. That's the gospel. Meet Christ! This is the power of God unto salvation.

And then of course there was Saul on the road to Damascus. Mr. Carpenter needs to ask Him about how much he knew about the atonement. Jesus smote Him, and called him to life, without one word about the atonement. The atonement works on it's own, and nobody is required to believe that it is limited to the elect, in order to be saved. The elect experience it, and that's the only thing they need to know. The blind man sees Jesus when his eyes are opened, and he knows instantaneously that the atonement was for him. He does not need to know who else it was for. It's for him. And he says "Lord I believe". That's it. It does not matter whether it was for the elect only, or for the whole world. It only matters that it was for Him. Salvation is personal. The sinner sees Christ, and flees to him for salvation, and when his eyes and heart are opened in regeneration, he finds in Christ his All in All. Christ died for me. That's what he needs to know. He was my substitute. And that's enough. Christ loves me, and receives me, and saves me, and Mr. Carpenter's imaginary conditions don't apply at all. Ask Saul! He became Paul, without one mention of the atonement. Christ saves whom he predestinates, and calls, (Rom. 8:28-30) and it is none of Mr. Carpenter's business. Christ loves all that the Father has given Him, and there are absolutely no conditions on it. He loves who he wants to love, and everyone else He hardens. Paul met Christ, and received His atonement without any conditions at all. That's the gospel. Meet Christ! This is the power of God unto salvation.

Did the woman at the well understand the atonement like Mr. Carpenter says she must? No! But she certainly had all the glorious effects of the atonement applied to her life, when she found in Jesus, the river of life that could forever

quench her thirst. Drink the living water and you shall be saved. That's the gospel. And none of Mr. Carpenters "essential gospel doctrines" are a part of it. The atonement is not something you know about, in order to be saved, it's something that God has done, so that you can indeed be saved when He is ready to call you into His kingdom. He applies the atonement not you. He is the one who knows how it works, not you. The woman at the well met Christ and received His atonement without any conditions at all. That's the gospel. Meet Christ! This is the power of God unto salvation.

Almost every case of conversion in the Bible is different. Jesus deals with men right where they are in space and time, and He calls them all by Grace, changes their hearts and minds, by touching them and applying His atonement to them in a living and life-changing way. There is no one way to be saved, as long as you come to God through "the one way" who is a person. Christ has never turned anyone away, because he was doctrinally deficient. That notion is preposterous. What you believe or think about doctrines, can keep you from being saved, but they cannot contribute one iota towards your salvation. Salvation is of the Lord. After you are saved, God will feed you and teach you, what He wants you to know about doctrine. But everyone enters the kingdom like babes. Babes have a clean slate as far as knowledge is concerned. That's so they can learn little by little and grow healthy and normally. Mr. Carpenter wants to produce spiritual freaks, not babes in Christ. He wants everyone to have full blown knowledge at the moment of the new birth. He even requires fetuses, young babes who die in infancy, the retarded and idiots, to have to have full knowledge of the atonement, and to exercise faith, in order to be saved. Mr. Carpenter cannot allow even Christ to save baby's who die, unless he saves them by his false way of "conditional knowledge about the atonement". My, My, My, How sad?

I have indeed attacked Mr. Carpenter's false gospel, and I've also urged him in no uncertain terms to be saved and meet Christ by the power of the true gospel. But I'm almost certain that when he receives this article, he will do with it as he does with all the other letters he receives. He will proceed to tear it apart sentence by sentence, and will put it on his hate site, edited and interspersed with his vindictive comments, and his lame attempts to use the Bible to disprove the truth. If that's what he does, so be it. The full content, in context, has been posted here, and you have just read it. So you need not be deceived by this mans hateful responses to the truth. Join me in praying for His salvation. And I hope that you have learned that the gospel is not what you know, it's who you know...Meet Christ!