

What is the Gospel of Christ?

First let's define the word "gospel". The word gospel means good news or good message. Oftentimes people will say, "Do you want the good news first or the bad news?" It is the same with the gospel of Christ. Before the good news, there is bad news. The bad news is that we all sin and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). And the wages or consequences of sin is spiritual death (Romans 6:23).

The good news (gospel of Christ) is that God loves us and wants us all to spend eternity with Him in Heaven (John 3:16; II Peter 3:9). So, He provided us a way to be able to stand before Him on Judgment Day and not be held accountable for every sin we committed during our life. He did this by sacrificing His own Son to take the blame for our sins. This kind of love is beyond human comprehension. What parent would sacrifice the life of their child for a sinner?

This free gift from God does require something on our part though. We cannot just tell God thanks and go about living a life full of sin. We must obey God's commandments and commit our lives to Him. Jesus said in John 14:6 that He is the way, the truth, and the life and no one gets to the Father except through Him. We must be in Christ. The only way to get into Christ is to become a Christian and a member of His body (the church).

The way a person becomes a Christian and a member of His body (the church) is by:

- Hearing the Word of God--Romans 10:17,
- Believing in God, Christ, and His Word—Mark 16:15-16; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6,
- Repenting of their sins (which means deciding to change their life to serve God)—Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30,
- Confessing with the mouth that they believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God—Romans 10:9-10, and
- Being baptized for the remission of their sins. Baptism is how we contact the forgiving blood of Christ and get into Christ and His body—Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; I Peter 3:21.

Once a person becomes a Christian, God adds them to the body of Christ (the church)—Acts 2:41, 47. Then they need to spend the rest of their life being an obedient, faithful, and productive servant for God. If they remain faithful to Him even unto death, they will receive their reward in Heaven (Revelation 2:10).