

# Milk & Honey

Vol. XXX July 2016 No. 7

*Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ*

## Crucified With Christ

William MacDonald

“I have been crucified with Christ.” (Gal. 2:20 NKJV)

When the Lord Jesus died on the Cross, He died not only as my Substitute; He died also as my Representative. He died not only for me but as me. When He died, there is a real sense in which I died. All that I was as a child of Adam, all my old, evil, unregenerate self was nailed to the Cross. In God’s reckoning, my history as a man in the flesh came to an end.

That is not all! When the Savior was buried, I too was buried. I am identified with Christ in His burial. This pictures the removal of the old “I” from God’s sight forever.

And when the Lord Jesus arose from the dead, I arose too. But the picture changes here. It is not the one who was buried who arose, not the old self. No, it is the new man - Christ living in me. I arose with Christ to walk in newness of life.

God sees all this as having taken place *positionally*. Now He wants it to be true *practically* in my life. He wants me to reckon myself to have gone through this cycle of death, burial and resurrection. But how do I do this?

When temptation comes to me, I should reply to it exactly as a corpse reacts to any solicitation to evil. No response! I should say, in effect, “I have died to sin. You are no longer my master. I am dead as far as you are concerned.”

Day by day I should reckon my old, corrupt self to have been buried in the grave of Jesus. This means I will not be introspectively occupied with it. I will not look for anything worthwhile in it or be disappointed at its utter corruption.

Finally, I will live each moment as one who has risen with Christ to newness of life—new ambitions, new desires, new motives, new freedom and new power.

George Muller told how this truth of identification with Christ first came home to him: “There was a day when I died. Died to George Muller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will; died to the world, its approval or censure, to the approval or blame even of my brothers or friends, and since then, I have studied only to show myself “approved unto God.” \*

## Some Important Lessons About Casting

Mark Kochin

### 1. The Sustaining Power Of The Lord

*Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.* Psa. 55:22

### 2. Solace From The Lord - 1 Peter 5:7

*Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.*

### 3. Fruitful Service And Guidance From The Lord

*And He said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.* John 21:6

### 4. Sanctification

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.* Romans 13:12

### 5. Strength From The Lord

*Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.* Hebrews 10:35

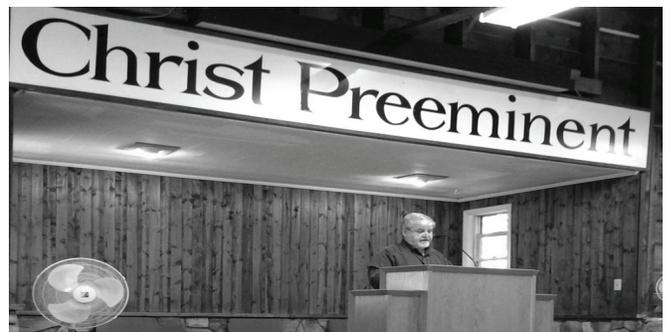
### 6. Success And The Surety Of God’s Promises -

*Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.* Ecclesiastes 11:1

No matter what the situation we are in, we have help and direction from the Lord. \*

## Shepherding Conference

[www.ChristPreeminent.com](http://www.ChristPreeminent.com)



# God Teaches Us His Gospel

Lesson One for Youth

Bruce Hulshizer

## 1. Read These Verses In Your Bible: Romans 1:1-18

### God teaches us His Own Gospel (chapter 1:1-15)

What a great blessing! God has written down His message for us! God had Paul write a letter to tell us God's gospel. In this letter to Christians in Rome, God explains His message of good news. I am so glad God has told us His gospel. We do not have to guess. We can know what His message is.

This good news was promised before Jesus was born. The prophets like Isaiah told men that God would send His Son to be a Savior (Isaiah 9:6, 49:6, 53:12). Here are a few examples. God said when Christ would come (Daniel 9), where He would be born (Micah 5:2), what He would do (Genesis 3:15, Zechariah 9:9, Isaiah 53), how He would die (Psalm 22, Psalm 69, Isaiah 50:6), and why He would die (Isaiah 53). Only God could tell these things hundreds of years ahead of time! So we can know this is God's message!

We also know Jesus is God's Son because God raised Him from the dead! Now God wants people to hear His message about the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants you and me to know what Christ did and what God wants us to do. Then he wants us to tell others His gospel.

That is what Paul did. He served God by telling people God's message. He had a burning desire to preach the good news of Christ to the nations of the world. He was ready to bring that gospel to the people in Rome too. They needed to hear it! Why?

### The Gospel is God's power to save those who believe in Christ (chapter 1 verse 16 to 18)

Paul was ready to preach the gospel because he knew everyone needed it. He also knew how great a message it was! It is good news that tells people how God is able to save them. If you were in great danger, you sure would want to know that someone could rescue you! How awesome that God is the Person that wants to rescue you!

Who can be saved? Everyone who believes. How can I be saved? By believing (faith). I need to believe God's message and believe in God's Son. We will talk about that more.

How does God save people? By accounting them righteous. This means that by the gospel a person can be perfect in God's eyes. By His gospel God can look at you and say there is nothing wrong with you! But why do I need God to account me righteous? Do I need to be rescued? What is the danger? The danger we all face is God's wrath! How horrible!

But why should God have deep anger towards people? Why such fury? It is because of how they live. People do not honor God. God created them, but men live like God does not exist. They are "ungodly." Also, men do not do right things. Their thoughts, words and actions are evil. People do wrong things. Men are "unrighteous," and God is Holy.

Do men realize they are doing wrong things? Yes! They have the truth about God. They know God will judge them for doing evil things. But they do wrong anyway!

But maybe someone thinks they have an excuse for the things they do. Maybe you do not think God should judge you. Maybe you are not afraid of being punished by God. You may not think you are a bad person. But how does God see you?

## 2. Review By Answering These Questions

List two key words or ideas in this lesson

- 1.
- 2.

Questions

1. God explains the gospel to us in what letter?  
R\_\_\_\_\_.
2. God's gospel is His message of what?  
G\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_.
3. One reason we know this is God's gospel is that we were told it before it happened by whom?  
P\_\_\_\_\_.
4. The gospel is not man's idea; but it came to men as what? God's m\_\_\_\_\_.
5. After Jesus died, what did God do that showed that Jesus is His Son? R\_\_\_\_\_ Him from the dead
6. The gospel tells us how we can be saved from what?  
D\_\_\_\_\_ of judgment/wrath
7. God made a way we could be rescued from what?  
His w\_\_\_\_\_.
8. God is righteously angry because of what two things about people? They are u\_\_\_\_\_ and u\_\_\_\_\_.
9. A person can be saved from judgment by what?  
B\_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord Jesus Christ.
10. When a person believes, God puts what to their account, so that He sees them as being perfect?  
R\_\_\_\_\_.

\*

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Romans         | 9. Believing                |
| 2. Good news      | 7. His wrath                |
| 3. Prophets       | 5. Raised Him from the dead |
| 4. God's message  | 6. Danger                   |
| 6. Danger         | 8. ungodly, unrighteous     |
| 10. Righteousness |                             |

Answers to Questions

## Praying with Thanksgiving

Warren Henderson

Paul instructs believers to “pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks” (1 Thess. 5:17-18). Is the idea then, that during arduous times we are to find some aspect of good in a trial and give God thanks for that? While that attitude may help believers refocus their minds off their troubles, the apostle has a higher calling for us: “Giving thanks always for all things to God” (Eph. 5:20). So, besides enjoying the Lord’s abiding presence, believers are to approach the throne of grace with thankful hearts. This type of praying exhibits confidence in God’s character and eternal purposes even though the details are beyond our understanding. As the prophet Daniel shows us, this is the kind of prayer-life is pleasing to God (Dan. 6).

Daniel walked so closely with the Lord that his jealous enemies could find no fault in his blameless life. In attempt to thwart the king’s plan to promote Daniel, they devised a civil law that would be contrary to Daniel’s religious beliefs. For this plan to work, Daniel’s enemies counted on king’s vanity and Daniel’s conviction of habitual prayer, even if it cost him his life (v. 5). King Darius approved the law limiting all petitions of favor to be solely asked of him for thirty days. Anyone breaking this law would be fed to the lions. As believers yield to the Word of God today we should also expect the enemy to wrongly accuse us. At such times, we should rest in the Lord and not be anxious. As we see in this story, the Lord is able to protect His own and reveal the truth in His timing.

After hearing of the edict, Daniel sought His God. He would not abandon his normal practice of kneeling three times a day to offer thanksgiving, praise, and supplications to his God (v. 10). Daniel continued his lifetime routine of daily systematic prayer (Ps. 55:17, 138:2). Daniel normally prayed in front of an open west-facing window (towards Jerusalem). His adversaries must have been surprised that Daniel do did not try to hide his praying. His window was already open and it would have been cowardice to close it in this situation. Likewise, if it had been closed it would have been courting needless persecution to open it. Notice that Daniel did not shortchange his normal praying routine because of the threatening circumstances; he “prayed and gave thanks before his God” (v. 10).

How often we become rattled by circumstances and rush into the throne room of grace in a state of hopeless panic, as if God is unaware of what is happening in our lives or is somehow not in control. There is a reason dear believer that the sea of glass before God’s throne is ripple free – God’s peace resides within His sovereign control over all things. From

Daniel’s heavenly perspective nothing has changed but a few details of his earthly supplications. Before the chapter is over Daniel is preserved, God is exalted, and Daniel’s adversaries are extinguished. To pray with thanksgiving demonstrates utter confidence in God’s character and contentment in His ways – this is the type of faith that God honors! \*

## The Certainty Of Everlasting Life

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:13

The knowledge that we have eternal life is something that is possible to us. That is something that needs to be emphasized. There are those who would tell us that eternal life is something to which we attain only when we come to die and leave this world and go into the next. They suggest that it is wrong for anyone to claim that he has eternal life. Such people dislike the doctrine of assurance. “We do not know,” they say, “and we must not seek to know. Faith means that you are always grasping at it, but it is something you cannot actually have while you are in this world.”

But that is a philosophical concept of faith that is not in accordance with what we have here. John says in essence, “My whole object in writing to you now is that you may know that you have eternal life and know it certainly. I want you to know that you possess it.”

You find the other apostles saying the same thing. What was more characteristic of the apostle Paul than this assurance? In Romans 8 he says, “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (verses 38-39). “I know whom I have believed,” he writes to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:12). “I know,” he says. There is no uncertainty about it.

So it seems to me that to interpret faith as a kind of constant uncertainty is to deny the teaching of the Word of God that we are His children. \*

## Milk & Honey Information

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## Obey - Observe - Occupy

*Hebrews 5:9.* What a pattern we have of obedience in our Lord Jesus Christ. He was a Son, and yet learned obedience through the things He suffered. He was made perfect, and is now the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him. We who believe can say, “Blessed Saviour, Jesus the Lord.”

*Matthew 28:20.* In this next scripture we are to teach those who believe to observe all things whatsoever the Lord commands. I am afraid there is a great deal other than this being taught. Let me ask you to make God and His Word your guide and the Holy Spirit your counselor you are taught by God to believe on – Jesus, God’s beloved Son.

*Luke 19:13.* The servants are in trust in this third scripture, and they are to occupy till the return of the nobleman. The citizens hate him, and how Christ is hated today! The servants (any who serve) must occupy till He come. They will be called upon to give an account of their stewardship at the return of the nobleman.

Obey Christ, for only then are we really able to serve. Observe His things and teach them. Occupy fully and constantly until He comes.

O fix our earnest gaze  
So wholly, Lord, on Thee,  
That, with Thy beauty occupied,  
We elsewhere none may see. \*

*Christian Treasury*, December, 1989

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## The Goal of Knowing Christ and His Will

Randy Amos

There are two prayers of Paul recorded in Ephesians chapter one and Colossians chapter one. He expresses two main goals for those who already have placed saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Goal One in Ephesians 1: To know more of Christ – “may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him,” 1:17.

Goal Two in Colossians 1: To know the will of the Lord – “that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,” 1:9.

To know more of Christ is essential in being transformed: His calling, character, heart, righteousness, judgment and love, etc. But the other side of the same coin is to know His will. What He wants me to be doing or not doing for His pleasure. Some admire His person and love Him but don’t major on His will for themselves and the church. Others can major on His will for us (obedience) but don’t know His heart and character very well. We need both according to these prayers. And we need both in wisdom and understanding.

Knowledge is knowing the facts, understanding is knowing the why it matters and wisdom is knowing the how to correctly apply that knowledge in life for His glory. Our prayers for others should keep in mind these grand goals in helping them grow in this. \*

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