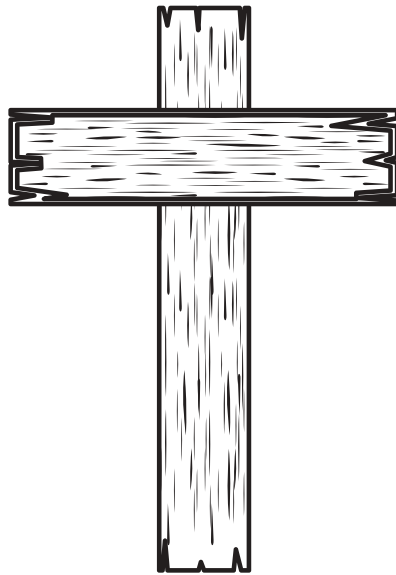




FREE OFFER OF THE GOSPEL

A GFC DISTINCTIVE



“THE FREE OFFER OF THE GOSPEL” MEANS THAT THE GOSPEL CAN BE OFFERED FREELY TO ANYONE AT ANY TIME AND THEY CAN BE SAVED. WE BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE THE BIBLE SAYS THAT THE GOSPEL IS FREE IN ITS COST, FREE IN ITS AVAILABILITY, AND FREE IN ITS EXTENT.

1. THE GOSPEL IS FREE IN ITS COST

It has been said that the best things in life are free but few of us truly believe that. For many of us, we have to pay for everything. No matter what it is, if it is desirable, it always comes with a cost. Our food, house, car, and clothing all come with a price tag.

However, salvation is not like that. It is free because it has already been paid for by another as Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Here the author says that salvation is a “free gift” which is another way of saying it costs nothing. There is no price tag on it. Why? Because Jesus has already paid for it on the cross. He already died for the wages of sin at Calvary.

2 Corinthians 9:15 adds to this when it says, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” Now the gift is indescribable. The gift is so amazing that words cannot explain it.

Ephesians 2:8 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” This passage ties the gift to God’s grace. It says that, in His mercy towards us, God offers salvation as a gift because we could never earn it on our own.

The point in all of this is that the Gospel is free in its cost. Jesus already paid our debt. He suffered for our sins at Calvary so we would not have to suffer for them now. All we have to do is believe and we can be saved. We do not have to do a bunch of good works first because the good works have already been done by Him.

2. THE GOSPEL IS FREE IN ITS AVAILABILITY

Not only is the Gospel free in its cost but it is also free in its availability. This means that you can believe in it anywhere at any time. Just as few things are free today, there are also many things that are unattainable. We cannot acquire them because they are too far away.

However, the Bible says that salvation is not unattainable because it is always close to you. It is always nearby. So near, in fact, that you can be saved right now if you just believe. You do not have to go to a Temple or fancy church first. You do not have to go to a priest or a confession booth. You can call out to God wherever you are and He will hear you. Acts 17:27-28 says, "He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist."

James 4:8 also says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." In Psalm 145:18, it is written: "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." The word "all" is used twice in that passage to show that anyone can do this; it does not matter who you are. Anyone can pray and be heard because God is within the reach of us all.

The point we are making here is that the Gospel is available to everyone just as God is available to everyone. He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). He does not favor the rich over the poor (James 2:1-9). He saves people from every walk of life which means that He can save you now. He can forgive you if you just ask to be forgiven.

3. WE COULD NOT BE SAVED WITHOUT IT

All of this leads to a final point and that is that the Gospel is free in its extent. If it is free in its cost and it is free in its availability, then it only makes sense that it is free in its extent or how far it can go. It can save you wherever you are in life. You do not have to fix yourself first or clean yourself up. You do not have to become a better person before you can have grace. You just need to call out to Jesus.

Acts 2:21 says, "And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Speaking to the people who had crucified Jesus, Peter says that even they can be saved. They can be forgiven of that despicable act if they cry out to Him.

Romans 10:13 repeats this: "For whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." Hebrews 7:25 says, "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him." The amazing thing about this verse is that there are no qualifications to it. There are no restrictions or boundaries or limitations. Salvation is for whoever draws near to God through Jesus.

The Gospel is free in its extent because there is nowhere that it cannot reach. Some people are afraid that the Gospel may not be for them because they are not part of the elect. That is not what the Bible says. It never says that you have to know that you are elected first before you can be saved. Others are concerned that it may not reach them because they did not come from a Christian background or a Christian home. That is not what this says, either. It says that anyone can go to Heaven through the blood of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

On the day that he was converted, Charles Spurgeon says that he heard the strangest sermon of his life. The local pastor could not make it to church on account of a bad snowstorm in town so a humble shoemaker preached from Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." (1) According to Spurgeon, the sermon went like this:

My dear friends, this is a very simple text indeed. It says, "Look." Now lookin' don't take a deal of pain. It ain't liftin' your food or your finger; it is just "Look."

Well, a man needn't go to College to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man needn't be worth a thousand a year to be able to look. Anyone can look; even a child can look.

But then the text says, "Look unto Me." Ay! . . . Many of ye are lookin' to yourselves, but its' no use lookin' there. You'll never find any comfort in yourselves . . . You have no business with that just now. Look to Christ. The text says, "Look unto Me." (2)

He is right. Salvation is a matter of who you look to. If you look to Christ, then you can be saved. If you look to Him, then you can go to Heaven because the Gospel is free.

This is what makes missions possible as well as any type of outreach. It is what gives us the assurance of salvation but, most important of all, it is what the Bible teaches. This is a doctrine that is found in Scripture, which is why it is a distinctive of our church.

If you have any questions about this or any of our other distinctives, we would love to hear from you.

1) The man quoted from the King James Version of the Bible. 2) Charles Spurgeon, C. H. Spurgeon: Autobiography, Volume I (Carlisle, Penn.: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005) 87-88.



CONTACT US

Join us Sundays @ 9:30 AM

46024 Riverside Dr.
Chilliwack, BC, V2P 3K8

604-426-1044

info@gracefellowshipchilliwack.com



gracefellowshipchilliwack.com