



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#23)

To accept the Good News found in Scripture, we must change the way we think, and respond accordingly.

YOUR VIEWS and ATTITUDE **And MINE** ABOUT TRUTH and REALITY

The Bible says: **THEY ARE WRONG...**

UNLESS: You got them from the BIBLE...

- ✓ Without pasting the world's views into it.
- ✓ Without cutting out the parts you don't want to hear. (This could involve many disagreeable parts.)

YOUR VIEWS/ATTITUDE ARE WRONG...

If you think salvation involves:

- ✓ Getting religious.
- ✓ Doing good things.
- ✓ Opportunity to sin with guaranteed forgiveness.

If you think salvation has anything to do with the **WORLD's** concept of:

- ✓ God
- ✓ Love
- ✓ Sin
- ✓ The meaning of "salvation"
- ✓ The role of religious activities
- ✓ Witnessing
- ✓ Obedience
- ✓ Good News
- ✓ "Born again"
- ✓ Repentance
- ✓ Believing
- ✓ Judgment
- ✓ "Born again"
- ✓ (and all the rest)

WITHOUT THE BIBLE CHANGING YOUR VIEWS AND ATTITUDE ...

You CANNOT be saved.

You will never understand what salvation really is.

You won't even have the same definition of "Good News"!

WHY CHANGE? MY VIEWS SOUND GOOD TO ME!

I'VE GOT MY OWN IDEAS ABOUT THE "GOOD NEWS" AND SALVATION !

➤ The world (which we were born a part of) has ITS OWN definitions of these concepts.

THIS IS WHY:

I'VE GOT MY OWN DEFINITIONS!

The natural [=unsaved] person **does not accept** the things of the Spirit of God, ... and he is **not able to understand** them ..."

1 Cor. 1:14 (ISV)

The god of this age has **blinded the minds** of unbelievers, so that they **cannot see** the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Cor. 4:4 (NIV)

CHURCH-GOERS ARE NOT EXEMPT

(Even in the church...)

Each of us was born with a *sinful, self-centered nature*

For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

Psalm 51:5 (NLT)

that needs replaced

with a *God-honoring, Spirit-controlled nature (which comes with a renewed mind).*

Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, ...

Romans 12:2a (WEB)

EVEN IF YOU HAD GODLY PARENTS WHO TAUGHT YOU THE BIBLE FROM YOUR INFANCY...

LIKE TIMOTHY WAS TAUGHT: From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures...
2 Tim. 3:15a (GW)

You would still have to change

- your attitude about God and the world.
- your views about what your needs really are.

YES, EVEN IF YOU ARE NOW SAVED.

All of us also lived among them* at one time, ...
Ephes. 2:3a (NIV)

* ("them" = the "sons of disobedience," people who are dead in sin)

THIS IS WHY...

There are so many Scripture passages that warn us to "STRIVE" and "PUT FORTH EFFORT" to find out what salvation is.
Also: To put that knowledge into action.

There are so many Scripture passages that warn us about FAKES and COUNTERFEITS
Pertaining to:

- ✓ Our thoughts and actions
- ✓ The nature of the Good News
- ✓ Those who claim to tell us the Good News

IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE ATTITUDE THESE PEOPLE HAD ...

The people of Berea were more open-minded than the people of Thessalonica. They were very willing to receive God's message, and every day they carefully examined the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was true.
Acts 17:11 (GW)

"You LOSE."

Previously, we looked at: (1) **FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES**

BASIC CONCEPTS THAT NEED UNDERSTOOD
before a person can comprehend what the Bible says about salvation.

- Issues pertaining to...
 - ✓ GOD
 - ✓ PEOPLE
 - ✓ JUDGMENT

Previously, we looked at: (2) **GOD'S ROLE IN SALVATION**

THE BIBLE'S CONCEPT OF "SOVEREIGNTY," which:

- ✓ Makes salvation possible.
- ✓ Affirms human responsibility.
- ✓ Guarantees that the "fruit of salvation" will be present in the lives of those who are following Jesus.

BUT KNOWING THESE THINGS IS NOT ENOUGH.

- ✓ GOD NEEDED TO SEND JESUS.
 - ☞ To PAY the sin debt we couldn't pay!
AND
 - ☞ To ENABLE the necessary changes in our lives!

— * * * * *

- ✓ WE MUST ACCEPT JESUS' role in salvation... >> **FACTS**
AND
RESPOND appropriately to it. >> **ACTION**



Because of that...

In **ACTS**, most people had a **WRONG** response to:

The GOOD NEWS ...

- ✓ Most "Bible believers" rejected (or modified) it.
 - ↳ It wasn't what they wanted to hear.
- ✓ Most "unbelievers" weren't interested.
 - ↳ It didn't appeal to the desires of their sinful nature.

TODAY, most people *still* have a **WRONG** response to:

The GOOD NEWS ...

- ✓ Most "Bible believers" reject (or modify) it.
- ✓ Most "unbelievers" aren't interested.

And so, many people who "share the Good News" **TAMPER WITH IT,** TO MAKE IT MORE LIKE WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO HEAR.

... savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ... men will arise and **distort the truth** in order to draw away disciples after them.

Acts 20:29-30 (NIV)

BUT FOR THOSE WHO ARE WILLING...

- who really care about eternity...
- who consider it a serious matter...
- who are willing to take the time...
- who will humble themselves before God, and accept the Good News the way it is written...

SO THAT'S WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!

GOD WILL NOT DISAPPOINT THEM.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

Things to think about... and to find out about (in the book of Acts):

- ✓ What did the people do when they "witnessed" to others?
- ✓ What was their focus – the things they talked about?
- ✓ What was the right way to respond – the things people needed to do?

This should influence how we witness, what we say, and how we should respond!

Credits

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