



Thank you for downloading
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the
CQ Rewind FULL EDITION at no charge, simply sign up at
www.ChristianQuestions.net.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



Is the Gospel Working or Failing?

1 Corinthians 1:27: (NASB) *But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong...*

It has been 2,000 years since Jesus walked the earth with the good tidings of the Gospel. When he finished his work, he left the infant religion of Christianity in the faithful hands of the twelve Apostles. These men "prospered and grew" Christianity. So 2,000 years later, in a world that is mostly non-Christian and largely secular, is the work of the Gospel still "prospering and growing?" Are we now achieving what our Lord Jesus set out for us to do? Stay with us as we look at the cold hard facts of Christianity in the world today.

What is the status of the Gospel today?

The ending of the age we might call "The Jewish Age": Matthew 23:37-39: Here the age of the prophets and of the favor of Israel ends...so, what follows it? What changes? What stays the same?

Growing Atheist Movement in America, Fox News (2008)

- *(Ellen Johnson, President of American Atheists): The American people are becoming more secular. Almost 50% feel alienated by organized religions. The number of Americans who are non-believers is increasing and has doubled over the last ten years and these results are echoed year after year.*

Statistics of World Religions: 1886 vs. 2012. See Chart at the end of the Full Edition of CQRewind.

Within 126 years, the total percentage of the world population that is under the broad umbrella of "Christianity" is up just over three percent from 27-30%. Those NOT associated with the God of Abraham are DOWN from 60% to 40%! Where did they go? Largely to Islam - from 12% to 29%, a 17% increase! And Judaism? From .56% DOWN to .19%.

Do You Attend Church, theveracityproject.com

- *Do you attend church? Sure, every Sunday...I used to! ... Sometimes... Last time I was at church was at a wedding... I just don't feel like it, okay?... I don't have time... I've been busy...(lots of excuses from different people.)*

The bottom line is people don't attend church because it is simply not perceived as an important enough part of their daily lives to make a true difference in the quality, interests or needs of life. The big question is, though, are they right?! **Here is the calling of Christianity: (Theme Text)** 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

What is the purpose of the Gospel today?

Matthew 28:18-20: Throughout much of Christianity, "coming to Christ" seems to be a simple matter of confession, but is that what this text is looking for? Do we just have to say the words, "Yes, I am a follower of Jesus," and that's it?

The leaven of humanism, *Why Modern Evangelism is not real Evangelism*, youtube.com

- *Much of what passes for ministry today has been compromised by the leaven of humanism, that often treats its audience as autonomous creatures that have every right to sit in judgment of both God and His word, picking out what they like and throwing away the rest. Along with this has come a "result oriented" approach to soul-winning, where people seem more concerned with how many walk down the aisle than the content of the message. If the number is not high enough, then the message is changed to make it more palatable to get the maximum number of people to make a decision.*

Luke 24:46-47: Three things are instructed by Jesus as part of this great commission:

1. Make disciples (followers) and teach/preach repentance and remission of sins.
2. Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Teach Jesus' words. (Does that mean we throw out the Old Testament? No, Jesus spent much of his time quoting the Old Testament and all of his time fulfilling it!)



Jesus instructs, *Make disciples of all nations*. But note what he does not say, however. He does not say, *Make all nations my disciples*. Is there a difference? We believe there is. He does not say that all nations are to be a follower of him. But if Jesus is telling us not to convert everyone, are we then *limiting* the Gospel of Christ?

What is the path of the Christian? Is a Christian supposed to walk a narrow way that is difficult, or is it a highway that seems like everyone can go down without encumbrances? How do we harmonize these: Matthew 7:13-14 and Isaiah 35:8. We will discuss later in the program how the Matthew scriptures reference those "called out" ones who follow Jesus now. Those described in Isaiah are the "everybody else" who will follow Jesus later.

Churches today talk about living a "good" life, but rarely a sacrificial life that is attached to the following of Jesus. Matthew 13:10-12

Psalms 78:2-4: Jesus introduces an "us vs. them" concept and as a previously prophesied "strategy." Jesus is speaking in such a way that everyone will not understand. We have a "narrow way" AND a "highway." What does this all mean? What is the purpose of the Gospel?

How should we be presenting the Gospel today? Should it change with the times?

 **Survey 82 percent, *Why Modern Evangelism is not real Evangelism*, youtube.com**

- *Surveys show that 82% of Americans believe in God and believe themselves to be Christians, and yet we have less influence as Christians in American culture today than at any other time. So the question has to come up, what kind of Gospel are we preaching? What's wrong with what we're believing?*

Galatians 3:22-26: Should it be through the precepts of the Old Testament Law? The Law was a schoolmaster to lead us to Christ in a similar way a school bus driver leads the kids to school. Once you are at school, you no longer need the bus driver. Therefore, the Law's purpose was to *identify sin*, which was only a starting point in relation to the Gospel. Part of the purpose of the Gospel is showing the need for redemption.

Several callers to the program at this point begin forming a picture that there is dissatisfaction with the presentation of the Gospel on a large scale, that the message is so open that everybody is okay the way they are. Yes, everybody is loved by God and Christ, but we are supposed to change, grow up in Christ, put off the things of this world. By putting on Christ, we put on a life of sacrifice. One caller suggests Matthew 5:20. The Gospel is not simply another set of rules, it is a way of life lived by Jesus. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11: Change! You were this way, now you need to come up higher! Man is supposed to step UP to the level of the Gospel - the Gospel in NOT supposed to step down to the level of man.

Those who are Christians are to set a clear and unmistakable example: 1 Peter 2:9 and 12: (ASV) *⁹But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, (a priesthood serves somebody...) a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light:*

But who is the example for? ¹²*having your behavior seemly among the Gentiles; that, wherein they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

By YOUR good works that THEY see, THEY can glorify God in the "day of visitation," which is the Day of Judgment. Does this mean that the Gospel is eventually a message of hope for everyone? How is it that non-Christians can glorify God in the Day of Judgment? (It couldn't be through torment.)

Just who is the Gospel calling?

Mark 4:3-20: (NASB) (See the full text in Bonus Material in the Full Edition CQRewind!)

1. The ground "beside the road." The birds eat the seed and it never takes root. Signifies: a lack of understanding

Matthew 13:19: (NASB) *When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.*



If now was the only time for salvation, then why does a simple lack of understanding of the word give Satan the ability to take that salvation away? Is simple ignorance a just cause to NOT give someone salvation? Should someone be held accountable for something they don't understand if they never really had a chance because Satan was more powerful?

2. "Rocky ground." With no deep soil, the seed springs up but withers in the hot sun. It takes root but dies. **Signifies: Emotional acceptance but no heart acceptance.** Mark 4:16-17: *In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; ¹⁷and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.*

There is an initial euphoria but it soon fades away. Is that the Gospel failing or succeeding? Is the Gospel supposed to be bringing every man, woman and child to Christ now, or is there a priesthood for the purpose of blessing all of the non-Christians later, as we read in 1 Peter 2:9?

3. "Thorny ground." The seed is choked out, produces no crop but does not necessarily die. **Signifies: Heart acceptance but no discipline to follow through.**

Mark 4:18-19: ¹⁸*And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, ¹⁹but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

The worldliness and paganism of our day was predicted in Luke 17:29,30. There is so much around us that can distract from our consecration to God.

4. "Good ground." There is an increase of 30, 60, 100-fold. The seed thrives! **Signifies: Heart acceptance and the seed flourishes and provides fruitage**

Mark 4:20: ²⁰*And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.*

Obviously there is more unsuccessful ground than successful ground and there are a lot of reasons why the majority don't accept the Gospel seed.

Quoting from Isaiah 6:8-10, here is what Jesus says: Jesus is saying that he does *not* want to convert the masses! Why would he say that? ¹³*And he said to them, Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word.*

If this is so, what about this text? Romans 5:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸*So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of **life to all men**. (Then how come most of them ignore it?) ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, (all humankind) even so through the obedience of the One the many (all humankind) will be made righteous. (How?)*

We know from Isaiah 55:11 that Satan is not going to win; God's word does not go out unfulfilled.

If it's only a few, then is the Gospel relevant to everyone else?

Philippians 2:9-11: Jesus is the centerpiece of the plan of God for the redemption of mankind. But what about the two groups of people - the righteous and the unrighteous? How does God's plan include all?

John 5:28-29 Acts 24:14-15 1 Timothy 5:24-25: No sin is concealed. Whether you are a follower of Christ now, an atheist, Buddhist, Muslim - all of us have accountability for our sins. The difference is, as followers of Christ, our sins should "go before us," because we are being developed to be Christ-like now. That's what the Gospel is calling us to now - to step up to a level of a life of sacrifice like Jesus.

Jesus himself tells us of a future for the "unrighteous." Jesus saves the world in two stages; the true Christians first and the rest of the world second.

This is why the world is waiting for Christianity, though they may not yet know that it is the answer from the greed, destruction, harm and all of the wrong in the world: Romans 8:19-22: The creation - everyone - was subjected to Adam's sin. No matter what we try or do, we cannot get out of the mess we are in because we are sinful. The creation was subject to futility. But it was done in hope, so it is only futile in the short term. They are waiting, without realizing it, for



the "manifestation of the sons of God." Then how is the Gospel relevant if Jesus paid the price without the world's acceptance of him?

Romans 2:5-9: (KJV) ⁵But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; ⁶Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: (the called out ones) ⁸But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; (no one gets away with anything - everyone is accountable.)

We see there is a selection now of called out ones - true Christians - in order to eventually help bless all the families of the earth. Is the Gospel working? Not surprisingly, it is doing exactly what it is supposed to be doing!

2 Peter 2:9: The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment <2920> to be punished <2849>: (see Bonus Material in the Full Edition of CQRewind for more.)

Psalms 9:8: God will judge the world righteously. The Gospel is relevant as a primary tool to show man sin and to show him the way to forgiveness through Christ.

Will the Gospel message win in the end?

The Gospel is the word of God as expressed through the Old and New Testaments in the context of the life death and resurrection of Jesus. Let's look at what this all inclusive Gospel says about the future. **The righteous judgment of those who are blessed:** Hebrews 9:27: And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the **judgment <2920>**. The Day of Judgment is a day of trial, a day of development. Hebrews 4:12-13: There is nothing God doesn't know about. There is no choice that we make for which we are not in some way accountable.

The Gospel is for the purpose of calling out those few who will *take up your cross and follow me*; this is a picture of walking to our deaths by denying ourselves. Christianity is doing God's will, not our own. It is not getting everything that we want, but rather a path of self-denial. This is why Jesus said, *many are called but few are chosen*. Jesus taught in parables purposely so that most people wouldn't understand what he was saying. He was here to *die* for everyone but not to *call* everyone. The resurrected will be judged... on what basis? The words you have spoken, the actions you have done, the reactions you have had, the works you have accomplished, the thoughts you have entertained, the deeds of your might, and the example of your life. Are we representing a way of holiness? Jesus spoke to his special followers in parables but also died for the "everybody else." What happens to those people? **These verses represent the victory that follows the cross:** Psalms 22:27-29 Isaiah 45:22-24 Daniel 7:13-14 Habakkuk 2:14: The purpose of the Gospel is to call out the "royal priesthood" so that they can be of service to humanity, so that they in the "resurrection of judgment" will be judged but will be blessed because they will have an opportunity to make good on the things they did. It isn't to bring everybody to Christ right now - statistically we can see this is true. The purpose is the calling out of a few so they can bless the rest. **Jesus died for everyone.**

That's why when Jesus taught us to pray, he said: Matthew 6:9-10: (NRSV) ⁹Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Is the Gospel working or failing...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**