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What is the Object of the Gospel Message?

Acts 5:42: (NASB) *And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*



All Christians adhere to the Gospel message that salvation comes only through Jesus. In this program we want to examine just who Jesus was calling to hear him. Was it anyone and everyone or were his messages designed for just a few to respond to, with provisions made for everyone else later? Why did Jesus speak in parables? Why did he, for the most part, limit his teaching to just the Jews? What was the great commission to preach the Gospel to all nations all about? Was it to convert everyone or was it to draw out a comparatively few disciples from all nations?

What is being a true follower of Jesus all about?

Matthew 16:21-25

- According to Jesus, the cost of true Christianity is extremely high!
- Peter did not understand the difference between Jesus preserving his own life and Jesus saving the life of the world. He thought that the right thing for Jesus to do was to save his own life.



They turned the world upside down! *Holydesperation.com*

- *When I see the church in the New Testament, they didn't have stately buildings, paid evangelists, lots of money and organizations; they couldn't get on TV and beg. But they turned the world upside down! Are you big enough to say, "Lord in this crucial hour in human history, let me fill up the sufferings of Christ!?"*

Luke 14:25-26: In other words, Jesus and God should be the priority. Jesus himself did not live hating his mother and father, but rather he taught us to put God first and foremost without exception. Everything (and everyone) else is secondary. Our lives are for the purpose of serving God. (That word "hate" used here also can mean "love less.")



No time to waste living with a Christian spin, *David Platt, RadicalTheBook.com*

- *If we form Jesus to look like us and be who we want him to be...the reality is we are not worshipping the Jesus of the Bible.*
- *We have a Master who demands radical obedience and a mission that warrants radical urgency!*
- *We do not have time to waste our lives living out a Christian spin on the American dream.*

We agree! We are to form our lives to fit into the footsteps of Jesus. The cost of Christianity is great and extreme. It focuses on living our lives in relation to the will of God through Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:10-14

What was "The Great Commission" all about?

Is our commission to convert the whole world right now? Matthew 28:18-20: These are Jesus' last words before he ascends to heaven. What do they mean? Throughout much of Christianity, "coming to Christ" seems to be a simple matter of confession, but is that what this text is looking for?



The real questions, *What is the Gospel, Paul Washer*

- *The question is NOT, do you know you are a sinner? It IS, since you have sat under the preaching of the Gospel, has God so worked in your heart that the sin you once loved you now hate?*
- *The question is NOT, do you want to go to heaven? Everybody wants to go to heaven! They just don't want God to be there when they get there! The question is, if the Gospel has been preached to you, has God done such a mighty work in your heart that you now esteem Him worthy above all things?*

Has it transformed you? If becoming a Christian means you have to put everything else behind, what should we collectively as Christians be walking towards - a happier life full of things, or something different?

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



1. Make disciples (followers)/teach/preach repentance and remission of sins.
2. Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Teach Jesus' words.

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 doesn't 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?

Matthew 7:13-14: This sounds very limiting...! So, is this a contradiction? Isaiah 35:8: So is there a narrow road or a big road? Could there be two different roads to salvation? We will look at this again later in the program. What is our commission then?

We are told to preach repentance, (compunction, reversal, change of mind) just like John the Baptist. This was a partial work leading up to the remission of sins. Never until Jesus came were both repentance and remission to be preached.

Matthew 3:11 *versus* We are also told to preach the remission (freedom, pardon) of sins through Jesus: Acts 10:43: Belief is more than just saying something. It is living what you say. Jesus and the Apostles spent a lot of time teaching us this. The sermon is our life. Our life should be lived differently than everyone else. Are we living the Christian spin on the American dream, or are we attempting to walk in his footsteps day by day?

Luke 4:18: Jesus is quoting a prophecy from the Old Testament, telling us he was the fulfillment of that prophecy. He did all these things to a degree for his followers, but it wasn't a broad application. What captives did he release? There is much more fulfillment to that prophecy. There is a bigger release.

Do ALL have an opportunity to truly receive the Gospel?

Luke 13:22-25: This sounds like the Gospel is for a very few. If that's the case, how did Jesus die for the sins of the whole world? How do these fit together?



God is a feeling, Oprah Winfrey on Jesus, shatteresparadigm.blogspot.com

- *God, in the essence of all consciousness, isn't something to believe. God is. God is a feeling experience, not a believing experience. If God for you is still about a belief, then it's not truly God.*

While explaining the parable of the sower, Jesus gives us some insight into who has opportunity for what: Matthew 13:19:

- 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 it away?
- Why is there no rejection of the message given as a reason for being kept in the dark?
- Why is Satan blamed, if in fact these individuals pictured here are given free choice?

Most Christians believe that if you reject Jesus, there is a penalty such as hell-fire. But what about the people that just don't understand Jesus? Are they on the same path as those who out and out reject him? Is that fair and just?

Understand: Strong's #4920 suniemi (soon-ee'-ay-mee); to put together, i.e. (mentally) to comprehend; by implication, to act piously: KJV-- consider, understand, be wise.

Ephesians 5:17: (KJV) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding <4920>** what the will of the Lord is. This kind of understanding takes effort!

So, if "missing out" is seemingly so easy, how does that harmonize with the following text?

1 Timothy 2:3-6: God WANTS all men to know His Truth!

Knowledge: Strong's #1922. epignwsiv epignosis ep-ig'-no-sis; recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement.

Having a full discernment means you know and understand the workings of something. Are we saying that God wants everyone to be saved, but God doesn't get what He wants? Is God the Almighty? Does He know the beginning from the end? If so, and he desires all men to be saved



but knows just a tiny percentage will really get it, why would God want something that He already knows He can't achieve? God wants everyone to come to a full understanding.

2 Peter 3:9: We see that the Scriptures tell us there are two different roads.

Acts 15:14: Why not *all* the Gentiles? There are different parts to Jesus dying for the sins of the whole world. What is the object of the Gospel? So far, we know that it is to call out a people for his name, but where does everyone else fit into this message if it truly is "Good News?"

Why would Jesus teach in parables?

Matthew 13:10-12: Jesus introduces an "us versus them" concept and now explains his "strategy" through a prophecy: Matthew 13:13-15: Jesus continues by explaining just how privileged his followers are: Matthew 13:16-17: (NASB) *¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. Even righteous men don't go to heaven? Is Jesus being so selective that only a few receive salvation or is there another piece that needs to be put into place?*

🔊) There can't be just one way, *Oprah Winfrey on Jesus*, shatteresparadigm.blogspot.com

- *Oprah: One of the mistakes that humans make is believing there is only one way to live and we don't accept that there are diverse ways of being in the world. There are millions of ways to be a human being.*
- *Interviewer: ...then how do you please God?*
- *Oprah: ...and many paths to what you call God. Her path might be something else and when she gets there, she might call it "the light." But her loving and her kindness and generosity - if it brings her to the same point that it brings you, it doesn't matter if she called it God along the way or not.*
- *Interviewer: That sounds great on the onset, but if you really look at both sides, what about Jesus?*
- *Oprah: There couldn't possibly be just one way. What about Jesus?*

That's a legitimate issue - what do you do with all of those other people, the billions that have sought after righteousness but did not come to God through Christ? Is there some kind of salvation for them? When, where and how?

We believe it is *all* about Jesus.

Isaiah 6:8-10: Jesus "volunteers" for the job and is given instructions.

This prophecy and Jesus' fulfillment of it clearly state that Jesus' purpose is to leave his listeners in an unconverted and sinful state. Why would Jesus do that if he came to save the whole world?

Is salvation really available to ALL?

1 Timothy 2:3-6: God WANTS all men to know His Truth!

Knowledge: Strong's #1922 full discernment.

🔊) Christ Consciousness, *Oprah Winfrey on Jesus*, shatteresparadigm.blogspot.com

- *I'm Christian, too...Up until then (when she read a certain book) I thought Jesus came, died on the cross, that Jesus' being here was about his death and dying on the cross, when it was really about him coming to show us how to do it, how to be, to show us the Christ consciousness that he had and that that consciousness abides with all of us.*

We agree that Jesus showed us how to live, but it was all about his dying on the cross or else there would be no hope, no salvation, no anything. Our opinion is that Oprah does not want to leave all these people out in the cold, but the right way to find out what happens to them is to go through the Scriptures. Luke 19:8-10: What was lost? Paradise on earth! Genesis 3:22-24: If you go back to that which is lost, you are going back to a perfect earth, not heaven. Heaven wasn't even offered until Jesus opened up another, higher way. But we can't forget the perfect earth that was lost. Perhaps that is the destination of the rest of the people! There are many prophecies that talk about a restored earth. Now there is an open door for the "everybody else."



Anyone can go to heaven, *Billy Graham interview with Robert Schuler*

I think that everybody that loves Christ or knows Christ, whether they are conscious of it or not, are members of the body of Christ. God is calling people out of the world for His name, whether the Muslim world or the Buddhist world or the Christian world or are non-believers, they are members of the body - they may not even know the name of Jesus, but they know in their heart that they need something that they don't have and they turn to the only light that they have and I think they are going to be with us in heaven.

What do you do with all the "good" people? Why did Jesus tell us to pick up our cross and follow him if in fact "general goodness" is the answer? Romans 5:18-19: *The many are made righteous.* That doesn't mean that they go to heaven, but we believe it relates back to those Old Testament prophecies of restoring what was originally lost. There are *two parts* of salvation that are beginning to unfold. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20: The reconciliation is that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. All are going to be coming under Christ...but when? We are representatives of Christ. 1 John 2:2: The whole world is part of this propitiation, but they aren't given the heavenly promise. What is it that they get? Heaven is available but for a select few - *narrow is the way*. And yet there is a lot of scriptural evidence that there is hope for the "everybody else" if they are not part of that.

What happens to those who are NOT converted before they die?

Yet, 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. John 5:28-29: The resurrection of life is that narrow way Jesus described. But what about those resurrected to judgment? Acts 24:14-15

1 Timothy 5:24-25: There are two parts: Some men's sins *go before to judgment* (true followers of Christ) and others *follow after* (for those who haven't accepted Christ now). Heaven is for the true, dedicated follower of Christ. Romans 8:21: The creation - the world at large - will be set free from their slavery and will get life again. Jesus is to restore that which was lost. A slave set free goes back to what they had. Man had and lost everlasting life on earth. These scriptures show a special heavenly calling for the true Christians contrasted with those that come up afterwards. Jesus sacrificed his life and was glorified. He calls out *a people for his name* so that we can be *ministers of reconciliation*. In the resurrection of judgment, there is a reconciliation process that takes place. That is where those true followers of Christ come into play. They are given a special privilege, but that is earned by walking in Jesus' footsteps so that you can be a blessing to the whole world of mankind. God's plan is magnificent!

Isaiah 35:8: This is not for the follower of Christ, because the follower had to walk in the *narrow way*. This Isaiah scripture is for the "everybody else."

Here is a prophetic look at the future environment of those who are blessed:

Matthew 6:9-10: Why does Jesus pray for God's will to be done on earth? Because it will happen!

Daniel 2:44: Where does this permanent kingdom take place? Not in heaven but on earth!

Habakkuk 2:14: The object is for us to be followers of Christ, to be examples, to be ministers of reconciliation so that in the Day of Judgment we can play a part in blessing the whole world.

*So what is the object of the Gospel message...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*