



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: (NRSV) ³⁷*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!* ³⁸*See, your house is left to you, desolate.* ³⁹*For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

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, comparing 1886 with 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: (NASB) ²⁶For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷but 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, ²⁸and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no man may boast before God.

What is the purpose of the Gospel today?

Matthew 28:18-20: (NASB) ¹⁸And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

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: (NASB) ⁴⁶and he said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

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?



Matthew 7:13-14: (NASB) *¹³Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

Isaiah 35:8: (NASB) *A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it.*

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?

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: (NASB) *¹⁰And the disciples came and said to him, Why do you speak to them in parables? ¹¹Jesus answered them, To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. ¹²For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.*

Psalms 78:2-4: (NASB) *²I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, ³Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. ⁴We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.*

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: (NASB) ²²But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the Law has become our **tutor** to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

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: *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

The Gospel is not simply another set of rules, it is a way of life lived by Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: (NASB) ⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹**Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.**

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.



What could the church do differently? theveracityproject.com

- *What could the church do differently?*
- *Be more open-minded...get away from tradition and adapt to the real world... be more contemporary and be more open...less talk and more fun...there could be games and carnivals and stuff like that so church could be fun...big cathedrals but money should go to help the people, not build a bigger church.*

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?



¹²having 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!)



"Beside the road"

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?



"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?



"Thorny ground"

The seed is choked out, produces no crop,
does not necessarily die

**Signifies: Heart acceptance
but no discipline to follow through**

Mark 4:18-19: ¹⁸And 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.



"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: ²⁰And 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.

Here is what Jesus says about that, quoting from [Isaiah 6:8-10](#):

Mark 4:11-13: ¹¹And he was saying to them, To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, ¹²so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven.

Jesus is saying that he does *not* want to convert the masses! Why would he say that?

¹³And 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) ¹⁸So 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?

 There can't be just one way, *Oprah Winfrey on Jesus*, shatterparadigm.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 her 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?*

Philippians 2:9-11: (NASB) ⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted him (Jesus), and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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: (NASB) ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Acts 24:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; ¹⁵having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

1 Timothy 5:24-25: (NASB) ²⁴The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after. ²⁵Likewise also, deeds that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.

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: (NASB) ¹⁹For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

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: (NASB) And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.

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?

 **Why God Loves Us, Why Modern Evangelism is not real Evangelism, www.youtube.com**

- *God is love, but God is not promiscuous love. Promiscuity throws love around sentimentally without discretion or discernment. God is not that way at all. God's love has the purpose of redeeming us and changing us. God does not love us just the way we are; God loves us so that we can be what He wants us to be.*

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.



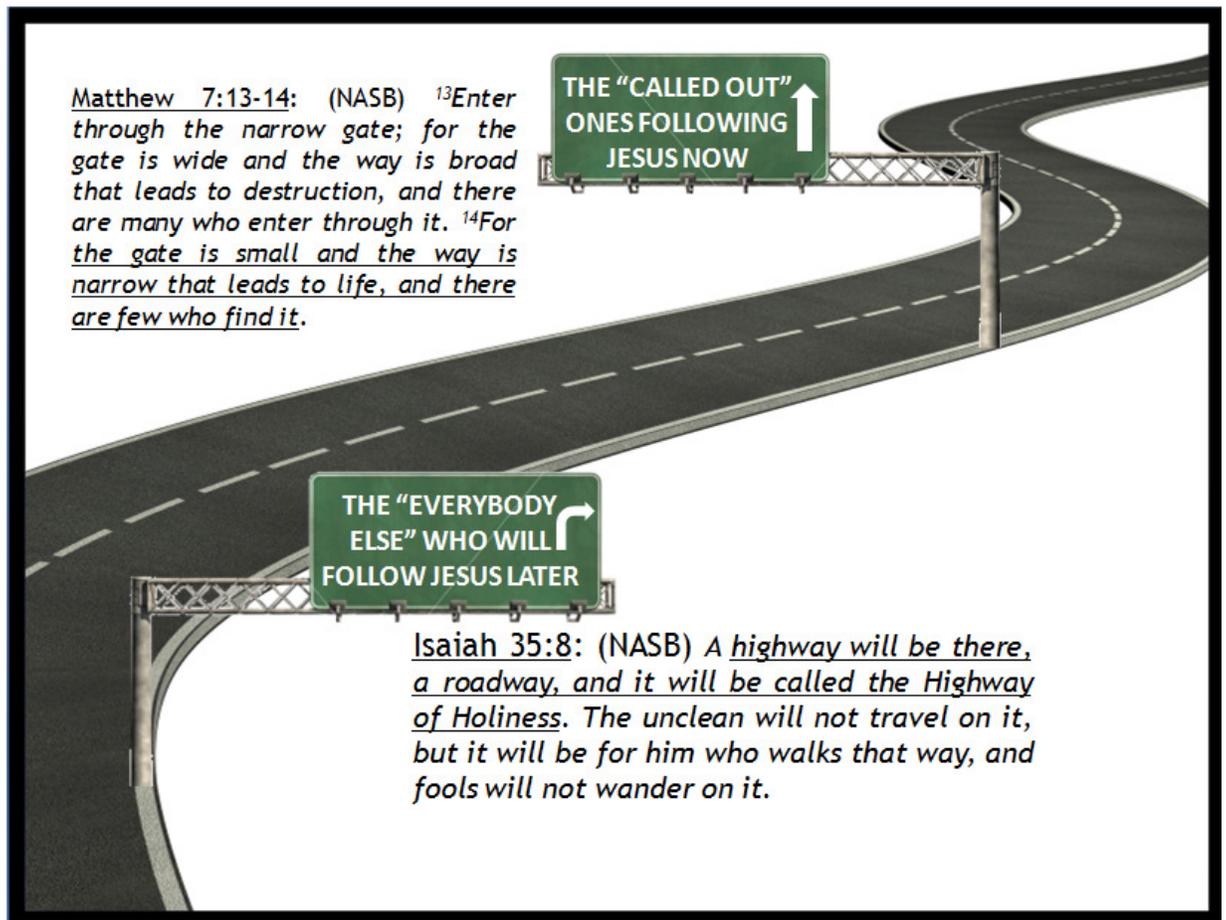
The righteous judgment of those who are blessed:

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: (ASV) ¹²*For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.* ¹³*And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

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: (NASB) ²⁷All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You. ²⁸For the kingdom is the LORD'S and He rules over the nations. ²⁹All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive.

Isaiah 45:22-24: (NASB) ²²Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. ²³I have sworn by myself, the word has gone forth from my mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. ²⁴They will say of me, Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength. Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.

Daniel 7:13-14: (NRSV) ¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Habakkuk 2:14: (KJV) For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

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...!**





And now even more to think about... only in the **Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**

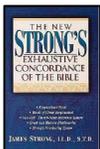
Mark 4:3-20: (NASB) ³Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow; ⁴as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil ⁶And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. ⁸Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold. ⁹And he was saying, He who has ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁰As soon as he was alone, his followers, along with the twelve, began asking him about the parables. ¹¹And he was saying to them, To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, ¹²so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven.

¹³And he said to them, Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. ¹⁶In 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. ¹⁸And 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. ²⁰And 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.

Source of Jesus' words:

Isaiah 6:8-10: (KJV) ⁸Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. ⁹And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. ¹⁰Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

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>:



Punished: Strong's #2849 kolazw kolazo kol-ad'-zo; properly, to curtail, i.e. (figuratively) to chastise (or reverse for infliction):—punish.

- 1) to lop or prune, as trees and wings
- 2) to curb, check, restrain
- 3) to chastise, correct, punishment
- 4) to cause to be punished

Only other use in the Bible: Acts 4:21: So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might **punish <2849>** them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

The following gives a scripturally logical sequence to the application of the Gospel to all:

Romans 5:12-19: (NRSV) ¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. **This explains the process of sin's entrance and its effect before the Law:** ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the



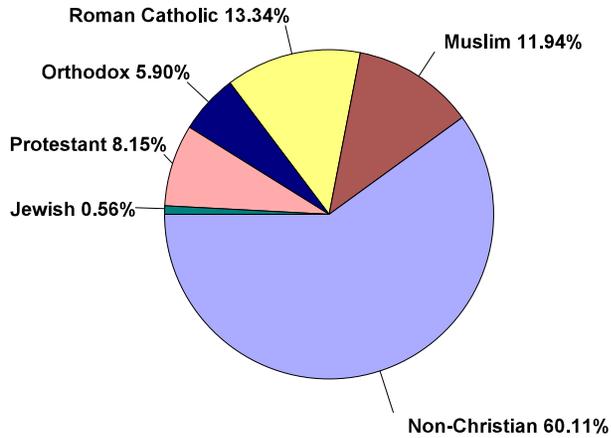
free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. Notice, it says the many; applies to those under Adam and Christ: ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. Each act has its consequence - sin to condemning, the free gift to justifying: ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

This is a clear application of justice. Jesus was not punished for the sins of others, rather he offered to pay the necessary price so others could be released. This kind of selfless act is what we in this day and age call a heroic deed. The difference? Heroic deeds save a life at the expense of another. Not so in God's plan. God raised Jesus from the dead and, in turn, will raise all as well. Everyone wins and no one loses!

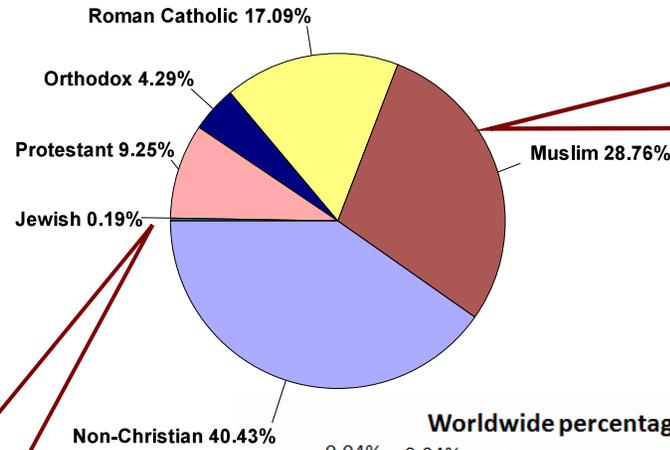
“God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.” – 1 Cor. 1:27

	<u>1886</u>			<u>2012</u>		
Roman Catholic	190,000,000	13.34%	}	1,196,000,000	17.09%	}
Orthodox	84,000,000	5.90%		300,000,000	4.29%	
Protestant	116,000,000	8.15%		647,438,113	9.25%	
		27.39%			30.63%	
Jewish	8,000,000	0.56%	}	13,428,300	0.19%	}
Muslim	170,000,000	11.94%		2,013,062,000	28.76%	
Other Non-Christian	856,000,000	60.11%		2,830,071,587	40.43%	
	<u>1,424,000,000</u>	72.61%		<u>7,000,000,000</u>	69.38%	

Population 1886



Population 2012



**2012
Muslim
28.8%**

**2012
Jewish
0.2%**

Worldwide percentage of Adherents by Religion (mid 2005)

