

Life Transformed

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 14th, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.*

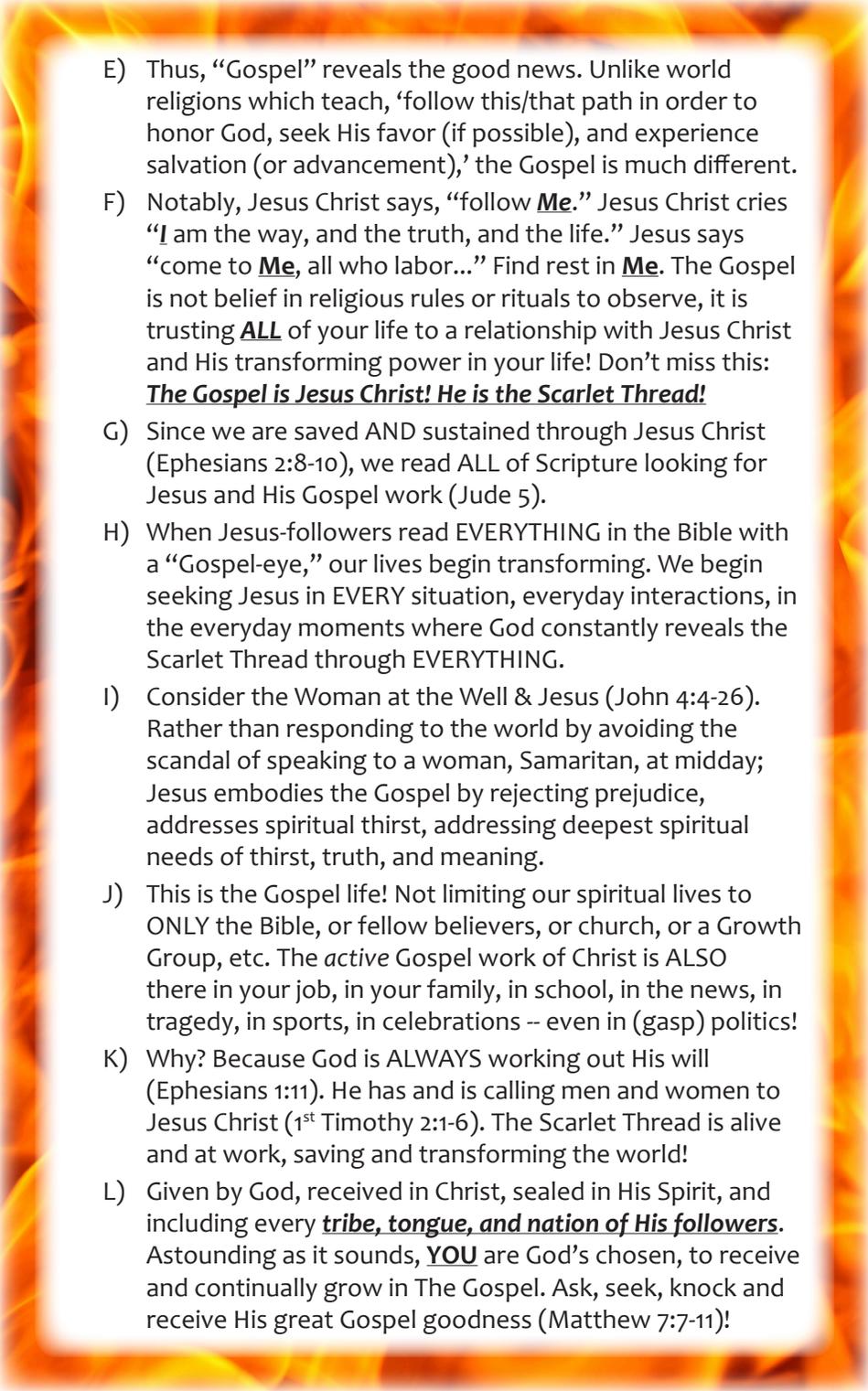
~John 14:6 (ESV)

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in
heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

~Matthew 11:28-29 (ESV)

1) Living The Transformed Gospel Life

- A) Last week we explored the background of Communion found in the Passover from Exodus 12:1-16. The goal of our time was to read the Bible with sharper discernment for the “scarlet thread” of God’s larger Gospel story.
- B) For clarity: Not EVERY story in the Bible is 100% Gospel content. The Exodus story is a history about the Jews in Egypt, oppressive slavery, departing Egypt (and slavery), and desert wandering to the South of modern-day Israel.
- C) However, EVERY story in Scripture has Gospel content – **THIS IS THE SCARLET THREAD OF THE GOSPEL.** Consider Exodus: God provides a Jesus-like Moses, God restores Moses, God’s supremacy, grace and judgment, deliverance, God’s righteous love and Law, sin and wandering, etc. These are all “good news” stories salted through the historical Exodus narrative (larger story).
- D) At times, comments such as, “the whole Bible is about the Gospel,” or “the Bible is God’s Gospel story,” can seem to universalize the entire Bible into Gospel/redemption/good news. This lacks clarity though, and can muddy things up.

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- E) Thus, “Gospel” reveals the good news. Unlike world religions which teach, ‘follow this/that path in order to honor God, seek His favor (if possible), and experience salvation (or advancement),’ the Gospel is much different.
 - F) Notably, Jesus Christ says, “follow **Me**.” Jesus Christ cries “**I** am the way, and the truth, and the life.” Jesus says “come to **Me**, all who labor...” Find rest in **Me**. The Gospel is not belief in religious rules or rituals to observe, it is trusting **ALL** of your life to a relationship with Jesus Christ and His transforming power in your life! Don’t miss this: **The Gospel is Jesus Christ! He is the Scarlet Thread!**
 - G) Since we are saved AND sustained through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-10), we read ALL of Scripture looking for Jesus and His Gospel work (Jude 5).
 - H) When Jesus-followers read EVERYTHING in the Bible with a “Gospel-eye,” our lives begin transforming. We begin seeking Jesus in EVERY situation, everyday interactions, in the everyday moments where God constantly reveals the Scarlet Thread through EVERYTHING.
 - I) Consider the Woman at the Well & Jesus (John 4:4-26). Rather than responding to the world by avoiding the scandal of speaking to a woman, Samaritan, at midday; Jesus embodies the Gospel by rejecting prejudice, addresses spiritual thirst, addressing deepest spiritual needs of thirst, truth, and meaning.
 - J) This is the Gospel life! Not limiting our spiritual lives to ONLY the Bible, or fellow believers, or church, or a Growth Group, etc. The active Gospel work of Christ is ALSO there in your job, in your family, in school, in the news, in tragedy, in sports, in celebrations -- even in (gasp) politics!
 - K) Why? Because God is ALWAYS working out His will (Ephesians 1:11). He has and is calling men and women to Jesus Christ (1st Timothy 2:1-6). The Scarlet Thread is alive and at work, saving and transforming the world!
 - L) Given by God, received in Christ, sealed in His Spirit, and including every **tribe, tongue, and nation of His followers**. Astounding as it sounds, **YOU** are God’s chosen, to receive and continually grow in The Gospel. Ask, seek, knock and receive His great Gospel goodness (Matthew 7:7-11)!