

# The Christian Arsenal

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## UNDERSTANDING THE GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) OF HIS COMING Getting Ready For Christmas

Dr. Ken Culver

Part 2 of 4  
Romans 1:16

*“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*  
Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

### QUESTION: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

<sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

<sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

<sup>50</sup>Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup>Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—<sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “O Death, where is your sting?  
O Hades, where is your victory?”

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” I Cor. 15:1-11; 50-58 (NKJV)

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The Gospel is:

Jesus' Coming (phase I)

Life

Death

Burial

Resurrection

Coming (Phase 2)

Our greatest enemy was death.

*"The wages of sin is death..." Rom. 6:23*

*"The soul that sinneth shall surely die" Ephesians 18:4b*

*"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4*

The shadow of a dog can't bite you.

The shadow of a truck can't run over you.

The shadow of a gun can't shoot you.

The shadow of death can't harm you.

Retired Pastor wrote:

In my 30's there was nothing better than the Gospel.

In my 40's there was nothing as good as the Gospel.

In my 50's there was nothing to compare to the Gospel.

In my 60's there was nothing but the Gospel.

## WHAT DO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE GOSPEL?

### 1. WE NEED TO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE PERSON OF THE GOSPEL

*"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ ..." Romans 1:16a*

*"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Matt. 1:21*

*"Behold a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, God with us." Matt 1:23 (quoting Isaiah 7:14)*

*<sup>8</sup>Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup>Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For there is born to you this*

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day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” Luke 2:8-14 (NKJV)

There are approximately 6 billion people today.

There are approximately 50,000 a day being added.

There have been approximately 30 billion people who have ever lived from the creation of man. Only a handful have made a mark on history.

Jesus split history.

He never wrote a book – Volumes are written about Him.

He never wrote a poem –

He never raised an army – Thousands are dying for Him.

He never spoke to more than a few thousand – 1 billion 620 million are Christian (1/5 of the population).

He never went to a university – wise men follow Him

He is not Jesus the Great, like Alexander, Charlemagne, or Napoleon, BUT,  
He is Jesus the Only!

## 2. WE NEED TO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL

“...it is the power of God to salvation.” V. 16

Sharing the Gospel is the greatest job in the world.

The Gospel was not given to save civilization from wreckage. It was given to save men from the wreckage of civilization.

Jesus came “to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

He came to earth as the incarnate Christ.

Lives in our hearts as the indwelling Christ.

One day He’s coming as the invincible Christ.

Incarnate – penalty – grace that saved me

Indwelling – power – growth

Invincible – presence – glory

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Hymn: Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying  
Snatch them from pity, the sin and the grave  
Weep o'er the erring ones  
Lift up the fallen  
Tell them of Jesus, the Might to save!

## 3. WE NEED TO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

*"...it is the power of God..." v. 16*

I have seen this Gospel change people, families, and situations.

Example: David & Goliath

<sup>1</sup>Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered at Sochoh, which *belongs* to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim. <sup>2</sup>And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. <sup>3</sup>The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

<sup>4</sup>And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup>*He had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of bronze. <sup>6</sup>And *he had* bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup>Now the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead *weighed* six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him. <sup>8</sup>Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? *Am* I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup>If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." <sup>10</sup>And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." <sup>11</sup>When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

<sup>12</sup>Now David *was* the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name *was* Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced *in years*, in the days of Saul. <sup>13</sup>The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle *were* Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. <sup>14</sup>David *was* the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul. <sup>15</sup>But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

<sup>16</sup>And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried *grain* and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. <sup>18</sup>And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of *their* thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them." <sup>19</sup>Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel *were* in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

<sup>20</sup>So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took *the things* and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army *was* going out to the fight and shouting for the battle. <sup>21</sup>For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army. <sup>22</sup>And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers. <sup>23</sup>Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard *them*. <sup>24</sup>And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid. <sup>25</sup>So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be *that* the man

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who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption *from taxes* in Israel."

<sup>26</sup>Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

<sup>27</sup>And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

<sup>28</sup>Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

<sup>29</sup>And David said, "What have I done now? *Is there* not a cause?" <sup>30</sup>Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones *did*.

<sup>31</sup>Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported *them* to Saul; and he sent for him. <sup>32</sup>Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

<sup>33</sup>And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you *are* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

<sup>34</sup>But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, <sup>35</sup>I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it. <sup>36</sup>Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." <sup>37</sup>Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

<sup>38</sup>So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. <sup>39</sup>David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested *them*." So David took them off.

<sup>40</sup>Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. <sup>41</sup>So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield *went* before him. <sup>42</sup>And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *only* a youth, ruddy and good-looking. <sup>43</sup>So the Philistine said to David, "*Am* I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup>And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

<sup>45</sup>Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup>This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup>Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands."

<sup>48</sup>So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. <sup>49</sup>Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung *it* and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. <sup>50</sup>So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But *there* was no sword in the hand

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of David. <sup>51</sup>Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it.

And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. <sup>52</sup>Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron. <sup>53</sup>Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents. <sup>54</sup>And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

<sup>55</sup>When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?"

And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

<sup>56</sup>So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is."

<sup>57</sup>Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. <sup>58</sup>And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?"

So David answered, "*I am* the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite." | Samuel 17 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup>*Again there was war at Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.*

<sup>20</sup>*Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant. <sup>21</sup>So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him. <sup>22</sup>These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants. 2 Samuel 21:19-22 (NKJV)*

<sup>5</sup>*Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.*

1 Chronicles 20:5 (NKJV)

Rome was powerful, but the Gospel was more powerful.  
Power – *dunamis*

The Gospel can make drunken men sober.  
The Gospel can make crooked men straight.  
The Gospel can make impure men pure.  
The Gospel can make prideful men humble.

Illustration: John Newton – Amazing Grace

## 4. WE NEED TO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE PLAN OF THE GOSPEL.

"...for everyone who believes..." v. 16

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The Gospel is not so complicated that few understand it. The Gospel is so simple that many overlook it.

Illustration: Archeologist named Carter – King Tut's tomb  
Farmer in Texas

Everyone here today can believe. The question is not can I believe, but will I believe?