

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? – and our Responsibility to the Gospel?

(Grace Assembly – Kaikohe – 17/3/02 – EKB)

**Reading:** *Rom 1:16,17.*

1. The Gospel means “**Good News**”.
2. in Maori “**Te Rongopai**”.
3. Before you desire “good news” there has to be **a need of some sort**.
4. In 1942/43, we, in NZ, were 5 days away from Japanese invasion. A tremendous battle was being fought in the Solomon Islands, at Guadalcanal. Then one day the US fleet arrived in the Waitemata Harbour bringing thousands of soldiers, marines, sailors and a lot of military equipment. US tanks rolled around our streets and their planes flew overhead. For us, under threat of enemy invasion, this was “good news”.
5. Well, **why do we need good news now?**
6. **Because God has a law of doing right** which He requires all people to obey.
7. This law is **an expression of His character of righteousness**.
8. There are 613 commands in all, contained in the first five books of the Bible. **Central to these are the 10 commandments** listed in *Ex 20*. They are, in general terms:
  1. You shall have **no gods before Me**.
  2. You shall **not worship any idol**.
  3. Do not take the **Name of the Lord** in vain.
  4. **Keep the Lord’s Day for the Lord**, and rest.
  5. **Honour your father and mother**.
  6. **Do not kill** by deed (or thought of hatred, *1Jn 3:15*).
  7. **Do not commit adultery** by deed (or thought of lust, *Mat 5:28*).
  8. **Do not steal**.
  9. **Do not lie about another person**.
  10. **Do not strongly desire what others have**.
9. Furthermore there is coming a day of judgment when each person will stand before God and give an account of all their actions. *Mat 12:36, Ac 17:31, Mat 25:32, Heb 9:27*.
10. **God will accept**, bless and take to be with Himself, those who have kept His laws, *Mat 25:34*, **but will reject**, curse and cast into the lake of fire, those who have not kept all of His law of rightness perfectly. *Mk 9:43-48, Mat 25:41,46, Mat 18:8,9, Rev 20:15, Mat 23:33, Jam 2:10*, (99.9% is not acceptable), *Eph 2:3, Jn 3:36, 1Jn 5:12*.
11. **Now, as an individual person** I have broken every single one of God’s 10 commandments.
12. Further, God says that **no man or woman has ever kept all those laws perfectly**, *Rom 3:23, Rom 3:10, Is 53:6*.
13. **If God should mark iniquity** not one of us would stand, *Ps 130:3*.

14. **So we sure need some good news.**
15. **And this is what it is.**  
God sent a Man, Jesus the Christ, His own Son, True God and True Man, *Gal 4:4,5*. He was born of Mary and was cared for by Joseph/Mary, *Lk 2:7,51*. In His life He perfectly kept all God's laws of doing right, as a Man like us. *Heb 4:15, Jn 4:34, Jn 5:30*.
16. He was not born with an inward sin bias to selfishness as we are.
17. At the end of His earthly life, 33years old, **He gave His perfect sinless life as a sacrifice for all our sins on the Cross, rose again the third day**, was seen of hundreds for 40 days in His resurrection body and then ascended back to the Throne of God. *1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, 1Cor 15:3,4,5,6, Ac 1:11, Heb 1:3*.
18. Now God accepts His perfect, sinless life, death and resurrection, **as a full payment for all our sins** so that we may come to God guiltless and clothed in His righteousness, *2Cor 5:21*.
19. **This becomes ours, on the condition that we repent and turn to God;** i.e. turn away from our sin and give ourselves wholly to Him and to His will. **This is to believe in Christ and to receive Him** as our Lord and Ruler, and Saviour from the judgment of God. *Ac 2:38,39, Ac 3:19,26, 1Jn 1:9, Ac16:31, Jn 3:16, Rom 10:9,10, Jn 1:12, Rev 3:20, Mat 7:21, Jn 14:15, Jn 5:24, Gal 3:27*.
20. **We receive total forgiveness, acceptance, blessing, healing,** eternal life, salvation, wholeness, deliverance, peace and joy. We receive His righteousness, *2Cor 5:21*.
21. **We are delivered from guilt, the power of sin, all demons** and the devil, control of this world system, every curse, sickness, disease and poverty. *Eph 1:7, Col 1:13,14, Gal 1:4, Rom 6:6,11, Rom 8:1, Heb 2:14, Lk 10:19, Gal 3:13,14, Mat 8:17, 3Jn 2*.
22. **Now we are sons and daughters of God,** to love, serve and obey Him, share the knowledge of Him with others, reach out to help the poor and needy, disciple others to maturity in Christ and fellowship with other believers around the Table of the Lord, *2Cor 6:18, Mk 12:29-34, Ac 1:8, Lk 19:10, Mat 25:35,36, Mat 28:18-20, 1Cor 11:24-26*.
23. **Our responsibility to the Gospel.**
- a. **It is our message,** *Mat 24:14*. "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached." **We are Christ's ambassadors to take this Gospel message to all people,** in every place we visit or dwell, *2Cor 5:18-20*.
  - b. **It is our mission,** *Mat 24:14*. "It shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations." **We are Christ's missionaries to go into all the world,** as He has commanded us, *Mat 28:18-20, Mk 16:15-20, Ac 1:8*.
  - c. **It is our motive,** *Mat 24:14*. "And then the end shall come." (the end of this present age). **Our motive for preaching, sharing, witnessing the Gospel of the Kingdom,** is that as we do, we are hastening the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and His rule and reign over the whole earth. *2Pet 3:12, Lk 11:2, Rev 20:6, Zech 14:9, Rev 11:15, 1Thes 1:10, 1Thes 4:13-18, Mat 24:3, Mat 25:31, 2Thes 1:7,8*.

After Christ returns His reign of righteousness will be established in the earth. How we need this. In 2000 there were 16,103 abortions in NZ. This will cease after the Lord returns.