

# The Christians One Foundation



What is the True Gospel

Part II

The Central Message  
of the True Gospel



**Wonderfully the truth that  
hell is waiting for the human  
race is not the whole story**



Excerpts from,  
“What is the True Gospel”,  
by the late Harold Camping of  
Family Radio Inc., 1959 – 2013.

**Wonderfully the truth that  
hell is waiting for the human  
race is not the whole story:**

In 'The Central Message of the True Gospel', the late Brother Harold Camping of Family Radio, 1959 – 2013, begins with the following question:

**What is the central message of the true gospel. We could say that the gospel is God's love letter to mankind where-by we can become righteous, know the love of God, come into the more abundant life, or learn to live to God's glory. Actually, however, we can find summed up in John 3:16 the core meaning of the gospel. This verse strips away everything else, and gets right down to the essential message.**

***John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

Harold then injects one of the problems of mankind's understanding of God's salvation program by the following observation:

**But the love of God, and the salvation He has so generously provided cannot be fully understood unless we also understand the meaning of the word "perish" found later on in this verse ... the phrase, "shall not perish", is an integral part of the gospel.**

In accordance with 1 Thessalonians 5:21, [*prove all things*], Harold's proof text for his observation is found in Romans 6:23:

***Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

In addition to Romans 6:23, in Psalm 14:1-3, and Jeremiah 17:9-10, Mr. Camping then identifies the root situation that always exists with mankind everywhere in the world:

**"The terrible problem of mankind is that we are sinners."**

The biblical text that he uses to prove this fundamental truth can be seen in Psalm 14:1-3:

***Psalm 14:1-3 ¶ The fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon***

***the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

In Psalm 14:1-3 is God's fundamental assessment of mankind as the human race stands alone following Adam's sin. As God looks down the corridor of time He sees 'no good' in any of them – no, not one. This is God's assessment not man's. And in Jeremiah 17:9-10, God further assesses mankind's spiritual dilemma:

***Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.***

Because the fruit of mankind's doings from the Garden of Eden is the fruit of good and EVIL, each individual sinner is seen by God as being no good in that they have fallen from Grace, and from God's perfect Holiness (James 2:10). From God's point of view, there can be none that are, of themselves, deserving of His grace and mercy – no, not one.

From his book, 'What is the True Gospel', and 'What is the Central Message of the Gospel', Harold discusses mankind's situation that leads to God's judgment because of sin:

**“Because we sin, even a single sin, we will perish.**

Here we may insert a fundamental precept of God which is found in James 2:10:

***James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.***

Because of Adam and Eve's, [mankind's], rebellion in the Garden of Eden, Harold discusses our accountability to God and God's judgment that the Lord had warned would follow, (Genesis 2:16-17):

**“Because we have been created in His Image, God holds each one of us completely accountable to Himself for the conduct of our lives. God has an appointed day at the end of the world when we are to be judged.”**

On his show, The Open Forum, Harold often reminded his audience how every day hundreds of thousands of people on the earth die, and that for each one who was not saved it is the last day, and judgment

day for them individually. Harold then shares the word of God as it is found in Hebrews 9:27, that confirms this truth:

***Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:***

In confirming each point of his discussion, Harold refers to God's judgment as an essential part of understanding the true gospel, and mankind's situation because of sin:

**"Because all of us are sinners, without the gospel we are all on our way to hell. This terrible truth cannot be seen with our physical eyes, because we cannot see into the future. So what we see with our physical eyes is not the whole story. The horror story is that after death there is the judgment. God's perfect justice demands eternal damnation as payment for sin.**

Here we might consider, Obadiah 1:16, in order that we might begin to understand the full extent of God's judgment on mankind because of sin:

***Obadiah 1:16 For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.***

Obadiah 1:16 is one of the most horrible verses from God's word the Bible, and yet, it is God's word that is warning mankind! Obadiah 1:16 must be seen as more than God's warning to the local church's in our neighborhood. This verse is an integral part of the gospel the root of which began in the Garden of Eden with Adam's sin, and that affects every individual who is born of a woman (Job 14:1; 15:14; 25:4).

Imagine, after experiencing this life with all of its beautiful sunny days and beautiful flowers and majestic scenery, where mankind has been enabled to breath, and to see, and to hear, and to feel, to touch, and to experience knowledge, and wisdom; to be able to enjoy the flavor of food, to able to love, and to experience joy, and to know the goodness of God, but then one day to never wake up again for all eternity, while, simultaneously, those who have died in Christ are celebrating with God's Son with pleasures unspeakable in the New Heaven and the New earth forever more – world without end! To have existed in the image of God, but then to be destroyed, *[not remembered by God]*, so as to have been as though one had never existed (Obadiah 1:16).

In short, this is eternal damnation; because it is to be without Christ for all eternity without the possibly, *[hope]*, of living by the spirit of God ever again. And I believe it was in this context that the late Harold Camping voiced the following:

**“Unfortunately we do not hear this part of the Gospel preached very frequently. It is so reprehensible, so sorry, so serious. It is so terrible that we want to forget about it. We would rather just talk about the love of God. We would rather talk about moral living. We prefer to talk about all kinds of things rather than this very important teaching of the Gospel.”**

What important teaching of the Gospel is this? It is the fundamental spiritual situation that exists wherever mankind can be found on the earth. That is, until God’s New Life in Jesus Christ is known through an individuals regenerated soul, *[to be born again]*, (John 3:3-5), all of mankind who are conceived in sin remain spiritually dead (Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:1). Those who remain in this condition upon their physical death will never see the light of day again for all eternity!

This is eternal damnation and God’s judgment on sin. And there is nothing mankind can fathom that is worse than this judgment of God’s total denial that a soul ever existed (Ezekiel 18:4). Burning in the flames of fire for all eternity is NOT more terrible than ceasing to exist; for in the flames of fire, and, irregardless of how terrible it may be, one is still conscious that they exist before God. ETERNAL DAMNATION is to NOT EXIST FOR ALL ETERNITY THOUGH ONE DID EXIST IN TIME WHICH GOD ETERNALLY WILL NOT REMEMBER. And I believe it is in this context God through His word warns the unbelieving world:

**Isaiah 40:17 All nations before him are as nothing; and *they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.***

To have been created by the holy spirit of God, but to rebel against God’s warning, *[in the Garden of Eden]*, there-by becoming spiritually dead and as nothing; to be eternally placed under God’s wrath, *[eternal damnation]*, to become as if one had never existed, *[less than nothing]* – how horrible is that!

Contrary to this world’s ideology, it is NOT a single group of people, ‘the church over there’, or ‘the group over here’, who are the reason for why the gospel has been corrupted; rather, it is the whole human race, and *mankind*, who, in the first Adam, are the reason – the unbelieving world God’s word commands us not to love (1John 2:15):

***1 Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.***

While this spiritual reality continues to face mankind, still, everywhere in the world there is hope, as Harold shared in his book, 'What is the True Gospel':

**“Wonderfully, the truth that hell is waiting for the human race is not the whole story. But woven into the fabric of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, like a golden thread running through the entire Bible, is the message of Hope. This is the message that we can know the love of God by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior. That is the other side of the Gospel coin, the central part of the gospel presentation: for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have ever lasting life (John 3:16). Why is it that ‘if’ we believe on Him we will ‘not’ go to hell? The Bible tells us that it is because Christ became sin for us!”**

Following are Harold’s proof texts from God’s word the Bible:

***2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.***

***Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

In, ‘What is the message of the true gospel’, the discussion concludes for now with one of Harold’s summarizing statements, followed by Romans 8:1-6:

**“This is the central message of the true gospel. There is no other news that can compare to this. It begins with the terrible truth that mankind is sinful and heading for hell, but additionally it is the wonderful news that all of us who cry out to the Lord Jesus Christ for mercy and hang our lives on Him can know freedom from hell because He became sin for us – laden with our sins as our substitute. He stood before the judgment throne of God when He stood before Pontius Pilot. He was found guilty for our sins, and God poured out His condemnation upon Him to the degree that it was the equivalent of everyone of us who would believe on Him spending eternity in hell. In this way He paid for all of our sins. He satisfied God’s perfect justice that demands eternal**

damnation as punishment for sin. Since our sins have been paid for hell no longer threatens us. We are no longer under the law that decrees that we are to go to hell. We are now under grace. By God's Grace we have become children of God. We have left the dominion of Satan, [which we were in before we were saved], and we have become citizens of the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ."

*Romans 8:1-6 ¶ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

When every verse of God's word the bible is not considered to be an integral part of the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ it is another gospel. It is another authority that cannot provide the truth of eternal life from eternal damnation in Jesus Christ.