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**HOW WELL DO I KNOW THE GOSPEL?**

**PREACH THE GOSPEL**

*Today is*

# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

*The Season of Gospel Witness*

*“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”*

MATTHEW 24.14

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* (MATTHEW 28.18-20)

*“This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”* (LUKE 24.46-48)

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”* (ROMANS 1.16-17)

# THE GOSPEL TEST: TRUE OR FALSE

- ▶ The love of God is a key emphasis in the Gospels.
- ▶ The "Acts of the Apostles" is the story of the spread of the gospel.
- ▶ The "good news" is the message of God's love.
- ▶ Jesus frequently spoke about God's love for everyone.
- ▶ Because God loves me, He accepts me.
- ▶ The term "accept Christ into your heart" is an important gospel statement in the Bible.
- ▶ A disciple is one who believes in Christ.

## THE FIRST GOSPEL MESSAGE – ACTS 2.14-40

*“This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”*

LUKE 24.44-48

- ▶ Peter showed how Christ prophetically fulfilled what was written about his death and resurrection.
- ▶ Peter emphasized Christ's efficacious suffering.
- ▶ Peter emphasized repentance, forgiveness of sins, and baptism.

## DID YOU KNOW—

- ▶ The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke contain no references to “God’s love for the world” (such as John 3.16).
- ▶ The *Acts of the Apostles*, the account of the spread of the gospel, contains no references to God’s love.
- ▶ Jesus only spoke of “God’s love for the world” one time to one man.
- ▶ The term “accept Christ into your heart” never appears in the Bible.
- ▶ “Love” (loves, loved) is found 17 times in the Letter to the Romans; sin (sinned, sinners) is used 57 times, including 29 times in the first six chapters which contain the gospel message of Christ’s atoning work.

## BELIEVERS OR DISCIPLES: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

▶ Jesus repeatedly emphasized this identifying characteristic:

*“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.”*

If we are going to be obedient to Christ's calling for us and if we are going to be faithful to his gospel, there are some important clarifications we need to make:

- ▶ What is the "gospel"?
- ▶ Who (and what) is a disciple?
- ▶ Do I really love Christ and what is the proof of love for him in my life?