18. **Confusion: The cross-less gospel; The promise-only gospel**

    a. This false gospel invalidates faith in who Christ is (the God-Man) and what He did (died for our sins and rose again). These essential details are viewed as _____ information and unnecessary truths for salvation.

    b. Some cross-less gospel preachers go so far as to say that if you require faith in Christ's person and work, you are actually _____ to the gospel.

    c. Proponents of this false gospel _____ that these are nonessential truths for eternal life. They often call the message to be believed for eternal life the "saving message," saying that the word gospel refers to the entire Bible.

    d. This _____ gospel teaches that for salvation a person must believe in the promise of Jesus to give us eternal life. To these teachers, all that is essential for salvation is faith in eternal security through a man named Jesus.

    e. While it is true that Christ gives us eternal life when we believe in Him, we are not told to believe merely in Christ's _____ to give us eternal life.

    f. Peter and Paul both preached the person and work of Christ when they shared the gospel with the _____.

        1) When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:23-24, 36), he preached the deity, death and resurrection of Christ: *This Man…you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again…. Therefore …know for certain that God has made Him both _____ and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified*.

        2) Paul preached the cross to the unsaved. 1 Corinthians 2:2 – *And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him* _____. 1 Corinthians 1:18, 23; Galatians 1:1-9, 3:1

        3) Paul preached the resurrection to the unsaved. Acts 17:32 – *Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to* _____.

H. Summarizing what the gospel is not

1. The gospel is not a subjective message.
    a. The gospel is not something we say or do in our _____.
    b. The gospel is not an _____ we have had.
2. The gospel is not a formula.
    a. The gospel is not repeating some _____.
    b. The gospel is not what we say or what someone _____ us to say.
3. The gospel is not saying the so-called "sinner's _____."
4. The gospel is not an emotion.

a. The gospel is not a _____ of remorse or beating oneself up.

b. The gospel is not a display of tears, _____ or sorrow.

5. The gospel is not some ecstatic or mystical experience.

a. The gospel is not speaking in _____.

b. The gospel is not being _____ in the spirit.

c. The gospel is not some sort of _____ incantation.

6. The gospel is not a promise or commitment we _____.

7. The gospel is not something we _____ for God.

8. The gospel is not some _____ we make with God. God does not say,

a. "If you'll _____ me Lord, then I'll save you."

b. "If you'll _____ me your life, your heart or your all, then I'll give you salvation."

9. The gospel is not something we have to ask or beg God for.

a. The gospel is not asking Christ into your heart or _____.

b. The gospel is not _____ for forgiveness or confessing your sins.

10. The gospel is not your ability to believe.

a. The gospel is not trusting in your _____.

b. The gospel is not your ability to be _____.

c. The gospel is not your ability to _____ out all doubts.

11. In summary, the _____ is not doing good works, keeping the Ten Commandments, being baptized, being circumcised, confessing your sins, asking forgiveness, repenting from your sins, inviting Jesus into your heart, giving your life to God, making a public profession of faith, praying the sinners prayer, saying yes to God, loving God, following Jesus, making Christ Lord of your life, having faith in yourself or keeping the faith.

a. How could the gospel possibly be _____ these things?

b. Who could ever satisfy these requirements? We would surely _____ if even one of these were required.

12. Plain and straightforward, the gospel is the objective message that Christ _____ for your sins and rose again on the third day. Do you believe in Christ and what He did for you? If so, you are saved. 1 John 5:13

I. Beware of preaching any other gospel. Galatians 1:6-9

1. Galatians 1:6 – *I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel*. Sadly, a believer can _____ the gospel, as was happening in the Galatian churches.

2. Galatians 1:7 – …*which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ*. The gospel is that Christ died for your sins and rose again. No other gospel _____. Unfortunately, deceivers constantly disturb us with distortions of the simple, but destiny-changing gospel message.
3. Galatians 1:8 – *But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel* _____ *to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!* Paul stated that anyone, angels or otherwise, who preaches another gospel, should be accursed.
4. Galatians 1:9 – *As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!* The fact that Paul repeated his strong hostility toward _____ gospels and those who preach them shows how serious this is to God.
5. Galatians 1:10 – *For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ*. We must _____ at all costs the temptation to preach a popular, watered-down or appealing gospel message, because if we do, we are no longer serving Christ.

J. Are you convinced Jesus is the only way?

1. In John 14:6 Jesus said, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me*." Do you believe Jesus? Do you believe He is the _____ way to God? Or was He mistaken? Is there another way?
2. Are there many doors or pathways to God? No! In John 10:9 Jesus did not give room for any exceptions, but exclusively specified, "*I am the _____; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture*." There are not multiple doors.
3. We need to remember salvation cannot be both God's _____ and ours at the same time. It cannot even be 99% Christ and 1% us. Salvation is 100% God's free gift. Ephesians 2:8-9, Isaiah 42:8
4. We must rely solely on the work of Christ; there is no middle _____. It is not Christ plus anything. Acts 4:12 says, "*And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved*." Isaiah 42:8
5. The reason we must be _____ with the most important message on earth is because it is a matter of life and death.
    a. If you had a malignant brain tumor, for example, you would want only a qualified surgeon to do the surgery and you would want him to use great precision.
    b. The gospel is even more important than brain surgery because it has _____ consequences.
6. For these reasons, we seek to be concise and clear with the gospel message. Our goal in this teaching is not to judge, belittle or discourage God's children. If you have been guilty of being _____ with the gospel message, trust the Lord and ask God to make your presentation of the gospel clearer than ever before. 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 2 Timothy 2:15

K. Christ's calls to us to share a clear gospel everywhere.

1. In Mark 16:15, the Lord Jesus Christ commanded, "*Go into* _____ *the world and preach the Gospel to all creation*."
2. Christ called us to make disciples in all nations. Matthew 28:19-20 says, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the* _____*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*."
3. In Acts 1:8, just before returning to heaven, Jesus added, "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My* _____ *both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth*."
4. Because it's a matter of life and death, let's make sure we are accurate and _____ in teaching others the good news that Christ died for their sins and rose again on the third day.

XII. Secure Forever

A. God's role in saving us and keeping us saved

1. It is God who _____ us. Revelation 7:10b says, "*Salvation* [belongs] *to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.*" We do not save ourselves. That is God's job. Isaiah 45:22
2. God, the _____ of our salvation, says salvation is everlasting. Hebrews 5:9a says, "*And having been perfected,* [Jesus] *became the author of eternal salvation.*" Isaiah 51:6b
3. Since salvation is God's work, the only way a believer could ever lose their salvation would be if God somehow failed. But God will not fail. The apostle Paul was _____ of that. He wrote, "*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus*." Philippians 1:6
4. The Bible teaches that God's protection keeps believers_____ and secure all the way through to eternity.
    a. Hebrews 13:5b – *I will never*_____ *you, nor will I ever forsake you*.
    b. John 10:28 – *I give eternal life to them, and they will* _____ *perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand*.
    c. Hebrews 7:25 – *Therefore He is able also to save* _____ *those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them*.
5. In His mercy, God Himself preserves and maintains our salvation completely _____ from our good works. Titus 3:5 says, "*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit*."
6. Our salvation is secure based on _____ promises, not on our successes or failures. 1 John 2:25 says, "*This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life*."