



Understand the Gospel – When Belief Is Not Enough

- ❖ Mankind is born spiritually dead because of the fall. (**Genesis 2:17 and Ephesians 2:1**)
 - We are disobedient, deceived and enslaved to sin. (**Titus 3:3**)
 - Our hearts are evil. (**Genesis 8:21**)
 - We are enemies of God. (**James 4:4; Romans 5:10**)
 - We can do nothing to alter our condition. (**1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 3:11**)
 - Salvation is God's work. (**Titus 3:3-8**)
 - We must be born again by God. (**John 2:23 – 3:10**)

- ❖ **A life born again: (Titus 3:5, John 3:5, Ezekiel 36:24 – 27)**
 - God cleanses us.
 - We are given a new heart.
 - God places His spirit within us.
 - We are now spiritually alive. (Colossians 2:13)
 - Much of God's work of regeneration is a mystery to us. (John 3:8)
 - God's work enables us to believe and experience the gospel.
 - God calls us; we respond. (**John 6:65, Acts 16:14**)

- ❖ **Conversion is our willing response to the call of the gospel:**
 - Saving faith involves knowledge of the gospel. (**Romans 10:14**)
 - Belief alone is not enough. (**Romans 1:32, James 2:19**)
 - Saving faith involves approval of the gospel.
 - Belief and approval are not enough. (**John 3:2**)
 - Saving faith is a willful decision to turn from sin and personally trust in Christ for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. (**John 3:16, John 7:37**)
 - Saving faith involves repentance. (**Acts 20:21; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10**)

One cannot truly accept Christ as Savior without also accepting Him as Lord. There can be no true saving faith without genuine repentance as well. Any other view preaches a cheap gospel that offers unconverted people false security, telling them that they are saved simply because they agreed the facts of the gospel were true or prayed a certain prayer, but had no true repentance or no real change of life. This unbiblical evangelism

has never been the teaching of the church throughout history. This weakened gospel, heard so often today, has resulted in a whole generation of professing Christians whose lives are no different from the surrounding culture and who are really not saved at all – **John MacArthur [summarization]**

Cheap Grace means grace without price; grace without cost. Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Grace alone does everything, they say, and so everything can remain as it was before. Let the Christian live like the rest of the world, let him model himself on the world's standards in every sphere of life. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate – **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

- Faith and Repentance will continue throughout life.
 - God does not just forgive us; He transforms us. (**1 John 3:9**)

The Essential Question: Am I Born Again?