

The following is used by permission from the book [*Thrice Trumpeted Truths*](#).

Part Four

The Gospel

Section I

Good News: Needed

Question: Why is *Good News* needed? Are there any triples that answer this question?

As the previous chapters were compiled from our searches for *thrice trumpeted truths*, we included many of our findings. One of the *trumpeted truths* is the fact that God is holy and humankind is not in harmony with God's holiness. Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command: "Thou shalt not." This brought the indictment against all humankind: "There is none righteous, no not one" (Romans 3:10).

God's entire revelation is permeated by accounts of human wickedness. God gave ten commandments to direct the nation of Israel (and all humankind) away from sin and sinning. For those who follow God's plan for successful living, He dedicated a whole passage in Deuteronomy¹¹⁷ listing a score of blessings for those Israelites who were obedient.

We note that at least one grievous sin is recorded for almost all key biblical characters,¹¹⁸ thus verifying the often trumpeted fact that "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

History also testifies to the fact of human sinfulness. Only Jesus Christ was the *Sinless One*.¹¹⁹

In answer to the question: "Why is good news needed," what triples did we find? Amazingly, we found *five* sets.¹²⁰ There may be more.

¹¹⁷ "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God" (Deuteronomy 28:2).

¹¹⁸ Three exceptions could be: Joseph, Elisha, and Daniel.

¹¹⁹ 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 1:19.

¹²⁰ Remember Satan's *five* "I will" statements? Interesting!

(1) THE THREE ENEMIES

The first *thrice trumpeted truth* is that humankind faces *three* enemies that impact behavior: the *world*, the *flesh*, and the *devil*.

► **The World:** The *world* refers to the evil of the world's culture, the evil influences, and the systems of evil that are built on covetousness and lust. Both James and John speak to this point.

James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

1 John 2:15 "Love not the world"

► **The Flesh:** Human nature's sinfulness is manifest by *fleshly sins*. Paul lists several of the *fleshly* sins.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).

The self-righteous Pharisees of Jesus' day felt that they were innocent of such wickedness. However, Jesus went to the heart of human wickedness in the Sermon on the Mount and they were found guilty.¹²¹

► **The Devil:** The Devil [*Satan*] and his angels are real. Satan attacked the Lord Jesus Christ with *three temptations* as recorded in Matthew 4:3-9. The Apostle Peter warns concerning Satan's activities.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

(2) THE PERSONAL PARADOX

The Apostle John listed *three* aspects of a fall in 1 John 2:16.

"For all that is in the world, the

► lust of the flesh, and the

► lust of the eyes, and the¹²¹ "For

► pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

¹²¹ "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20).

¹²⁵ Exodus 12:1-10

(3) THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL

James listed *three* aspects of a downward spiral and of heart issues.

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of

- ▶ his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived,
- ▶ it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished,
- ▶ bringeth forth death” (James 1:14-15).

(4) THE ISSUES OF THE HEART

“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is

- ▶ earthly,
- ▶ sensual,
- ▶ devilish” (James 3:14-15).

(5) THE TRIPLE INDICTMENT

Paul’s statement of the equality of *all* people before God is a *triple* indictment of the human condition: “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Romans 3:11-29).

The indictment, all have gone out of God’s way, is evidenced throughout history and throughout the entire human race. It becomes obvious that some good news is needed for humanity.

Section II

The Good News

THE GOSPEL

There is good news—it is *The Gospel*. The gospel proclaims a redeemer who came to seek and to save that which was lost. Since all are lost, it would seem logical that each lost person would favorably respond to the possibility of being found. However, the apostle John summarized the reality: “He [*Jesus*] was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:10-13).

Jesus, when speaking with Nicodemus stated a *triple* indictment.

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men

- ▶ loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil
- ▶ hateth the light,
- ▶ neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.”
(John 3:19-20)

The problem is three-fold: people love darkness; they hate the light; they avoid the light. Jesus stated: “I am the light of the world : he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

In the Old Testament, Job faced God’s interrogations and repented:

“Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6).

The New Testament gospel message began with a *triple* proclamation of *repent* by John, by Jesus, and by the disciples.

▶ **John:** It was John Baptist who brought the first *repent* message.

“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:1-2)

▶ **Jesus:** Repent was Jesus’ initial recorded message.

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

▶ **Disciples:** The third to proclaim the repentance requirement were the disciples. Early in His ministry, Jesus sent them out to minister.

“And they went out, and preached that men should repent”
(Mark 6:12).

Note: The word *repent* carries the idea of turning around; making an about-face. To *repent*, means to do a 180; to turn to God and to turn away from sin by placing faith in Jesus Christ as savior from sin. It was Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection that paid the price for my/your sin. Thus, forgiveness and a new life is available for any one who receives Christ by faith.

The Apostle Paul proclaimed the Gospel. He listed a *triple*:

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein

ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that

- ▶ Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures¹²²;
- And that
- ▶ He was buried, and that
- ▶ He rose again the third day according to the scriptures”

(1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The phrase, “According to the scriptures,” refers to the entire Old Testament message of sacrifice, substitution, and eternal life. There are scores of examples; here are three:

(1) Abraham sacrificed a lamb *in place of* Isaac.¹²³ This was an illustration because in the New Testament, God the Father, sacrificed THE LAMB [*Jesus Christ*] in the place of sinners.¹²⁴

(2) The Passover required a lamb’s blood to be applied to the door posts of their dwellings.¹²⁵ In the New Testament, the blood of the Lamb [*Jesus Christ*] was shed on the day of the Passover to make atonement for any who will by faith receive this atonement for their own sin (see 1 Peter 1:18-21).

(3) The promise that the Redeemer would not see corruption (see Psalm 16:10). In the New Testament account, the Redeemer rose from the dead to be the *firstfruits* of all who believe. The Apostle Paul spoke to this truth when he wrote, “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:6).

¹²² Or [as the Scriptures said He would do].

¹²³ Genesis 22:13

¹²⁴ John 1:29

¹²⁵ Exodus 12:1-10

THE MESSAGE

The message is simple: Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sin. He died because of our sin. He was our substitute. He died in my/your place. Because of Christ's death, burial and resurrection, we can now come to God because the veil was opened when Jesus stated: "It is finished." This truth of redemption and also of access to God was promised and then proclaimed by the prophets and, most importantly by God Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

► **God:** Old Testament:

"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; . . .

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:16-18).

► **Jesus Christ:**

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

► **The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ:** (*A triple invitation*)

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

THE INVITATION

The invitation is simple. It is a simple *come by faith* invitation. Here are three proclamations:

► Jesus stated the simple invitation:

"Come unto me" (Matthew 11:28-30).

► Turn from sin. Paul summarized his message with these words:

". . . that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance" (Acts 26:20).

► God will forgive sin:

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

THE BOOK OF LIFE

We found eight references to the *Book of Life* in the New Testament, so that is not a triple. Here is the most definitive passage.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life : and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books¹²⁶, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:12-15).

This and other passages tell us that those whose names are NOT found in the *Book of Life* will not enter heaven (Rev. 21:27; Phil. 4:3).

Questions:

► **Is your name written in the Book of Life?**

With this question, please allow me to speak personally to anyone who has not received forgiveness and a new life in Christ.

God is RIGHTEOUS; God is HOLY. It is impossible for any person to measure up to God’s RIGHTEOUSNESS. God has said concerning all people: “There is none righteous, no not one” and “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:10, 23).

The Gospel is God’s *Good News*. Jesus clearly states the *for whom* and *the why* He came. Jesus said: “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Jesus Christ died to provide a free gift of forgiveness, righteousness and eternal life to any who will receive Him by turning to God and by faith receive this free gift.

Jesus not only died but He rose from the dead and now lives to provide this new life for any person who will by faith, receive His gift. By faith, the gift of forgiveness and of a new life can be yours.

¹²⁶ “The books” refers to “books of record,” not the Book of Life.

► What is the *New Birth*?

There are three significant descriptions of God's work in the human heart: the *new birth*, *imputed righteousness*, and a *new life*. These are the gifts of God as stated in Ephesians 2. These *three works* of God are only separated by their descriptive illustrations, not by time.

It was Jesus who spoke of the new birth when He said, “Ye must be born again.” The term “*born again*” is used exactly *three* times in the New Testament. Jesus introduced it by a double usage in His dialogue with Nicodemus and Peter used it one time in his first epistle.

John 3:3 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be

► **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

John 3:7 “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be

► **born again.**”

1 Peter 1:23 “Being

► **born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Peter 1:23).

We also looked at Jesus' *born again* requirement in John's gospel, then we found that John had already recorded the source of this *birth* event.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

Then we turned to the book of First John. Amazingly we found the term “*born of God*” *seven* times¹²⁷ if we begin with the “*born of him*” in chapter two. If three declares certainty, *seven* must be a *definite* certainty. God is saying—attention please! Being *born again* is the key element for a new life in Christ.¹²⁸

¹²⁷ (1 John 2:29; 3:9, 9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18).

¹²⁸ See also Galatians 3:6.

Just as with a human birth—the one being born is the one acted upon, not the actor. The new birth is *of God*. God does the regenerating work. What we do or what someone else does for us or to us is not this birth process. It is God that forgives our sin; He *births* us into the family of God, and imparts a *new life* through Christ. It is then *His Robes for Mine*.¹²⁹ I allow Him to take *my* robes of sinfulness and He gives me *His* robe of righteousness.

IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

This switching of “robes” is known as *imputation*. The example of Abraham’s *belief* and God viewing him as righteous is cited three times.

▶ “And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness” (Gen 15:6).

▶ “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Rom 4:3).

“And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness” (Rom 4:22).

▶ “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God” (James 2:23).

How can this be? God said concerning Jesus and His death, “For he hath made him [*Jesus Christ*] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Because of Jesus’ sinless life and of His death for us, God will both grant to us **forgiveness** of sin and **impart righteousness** (endow us with Christ’s righteousness). The price Jesus paid was great but for us the process is simple.

Jesus said, “*repent*” (Matthew 4:17). To *repent*, means to do a 180; *to turn to God*, away from sin, by faith [*trust*] in Jesus Christ, asking God’s forgiveness for your sin. God will forgive because of what Jesus Christ has done for you on the cross.

¹²⁹ <http://www.churchworksmedia.com/hymns/his-robbs-for-mine-text/>

¹³⁰ <http://www.churchworksmedia.com/hymns/his-robbs-for-mine-text/>

By faith, trust in Jesus Christ, you will be given Christ's righteousness¹³⁰ and eternal life. Your name will be written in *The Book of Life*. Do this and receive God's promise: "As many as received him [*Jesus Christ*], to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

What a person does with Jesus Christ is the most important decision that can ever be made; this decision determines our eternal destiny.

NEW LIFE

No study of The Gospel can be complete without finding a triple reference to this *new life* in Christ.

▶ "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

Two other passages speak of the newness of life.

▶ Ephesians 4:24-25 "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another."

▶ Colossians 3:8-10 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

NEW LIFE-STYLE

The new life results in *new attitudes* toward God, His Word, and God's children. Here are three of the seven passages in 1 John indicating that being born of God produces new attitudes.

▶ "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him" (1 John 2:29).

▶ "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" (1 John 5:1).

▶ "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4:7).

This new life also results in new power, through the working of God's Holy Spirit in the newly born *child of God*. Paul speaks to this point: "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

To be *born again* obviously means to be *born of God*. It is this new birth that places the redeemed person as a *child of God* into the *family of God* with a *new life*.

Questions:

- ▶ What do you think might be the greatest miracle of God's grace?
- ▶ After reading the above triples, could you show a person how to receive forgiveness of sin and be born again into the family of God?
- ▶ Are there any other New Testament passages that speak of this *new life*?

Thrice Trumpeted Truths (128)

Used by permission and taken from the book,

Thrice Trumpeted Truths

CLEARLY spoken 3 times

www.3-truths.com

Thrice Trumpeted Truths

Copyright © 2012 J. Mark Holland

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping or by any information storage retrieval system without the written permission of the publisher except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version (KJV).

**WestBow
Press**

WestBow Press books may be ordered through booksellers or by contacting:

*WestBow Press
A Division of Thomas Nelson
1663 Liberty Drive
Bloomington, IN 47403*

www.westbowpress.com

1-(866) 928-1240