

Understanding the Gospel

See what the Christian gospel *doesn't* do -

First, it doesn't make bad men good! The apostle Paul who wrote much of the New Testament - probably the world's greatest Christian - describes himself as the “chief of sinners”! 1 Timothy 1.15.

Second, the gospel doesn't make dumb people smart! Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to announce good news to the poor, he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.” Luke 4.18.

Notice Jesus says nothing there about making people smart.

Third, nor does the gospel fan some internal flame, awakening goodness that lies dormant in human hearts.

So what does the Christian gospel do? It makes *dead men live!*

Paul reminded the Ephesians of what God, through Christ, did in their lives. He said, “You he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” Ephesians 2.1.

Jesus underlined this. He says, “I am the way, the truth, and *the life*. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14.6.

Nothing less than life and death is at stake.

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God is nearer and readier to meet our need than we may have realised.

Ken Packer