**GOSPEL OF BARABBAS**

Galatians 3:26 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

I. What is the Gospel? *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

A. According to this passage, the *Gospel* is defined as these events:

1. Jesus DIED for our sins according to Scripture

2. Jesus was BURIED

3. Jesus ROSE FROM THE DEAD on the 3rd day according to Scripture

B. What we call the Gospels are those Bible books which this series of events is recorded

1. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

II. Considering the Gospel of Barabbas

A. His witness to these events is recorded:

1. Matthew 27:15-20, Mark 15:6-14, Luke 23:17-22, John 18:39-40

2. Since the Gospel’s necessarily could not cover all of the events of the life of Jesus (John 21:25), why did all four writers feel his story was necessary to explain the Gospel?

B. Why Barabbas is important to explaining the Gospel

1. He represents those who are rightfully condemned to die (Luke 23:41)

*Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death,*

2. He represents one whose penalty was paid for[[1]](#footnote-1) by another

*1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree*

*1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust*,

3. He represents one whose “debt to society” has been paid and is now free

*John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.* (“it is finished” = *Tetelesti*, which was used to express “paid in full”)

4. Barabbas’ telling of the Gospel is that for any man who has been saved by it:

*Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

***Bar-Abbas: Bar = Son; Abba = Father***

***Barabbas = Son of the Father, the name for any who have been saved by the Gospel!***

III. Obey the Gospel

*2 Thessalonians 1:8 (Jesus will one day come) in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1 Peter 4:17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?*

A. How does one “obey the Gospel” to be saved?

1. How does one act out Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection?

2. *Romans 6:3-5,*

B. We are saved when we re-enact the Gospel, by repenting of sin (dying to it) and being baptized (according to John 3:3-5, being born again)

1. Not substituted, but removed by their actions [↑](#footnote-ref-1)