

The Gospel is not Word and Deeds, but Word only!

Quite often people quote St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel; if necessary, use words." However, St. Francis never said this. The closest that researchers have found of something similar was when he was upset with some Franciscan priests for preaching without permission, but to encourage them, he said, "Let all the brothers (Franciscans) ... preach by their deeds."

The truth of the Word of God is that the Gospel stands alone. It is that Jesus, sent by His Father from Heaven lived a perfect sinless life, died on the cross for sin, was buried, rose again, and ascended into Heaven. If anyone believes and turns from sin and trusts Jesus Christ alone for salvation, he will receive forgiveness and inherit eternal life (John 3 and 1 Corinthians 15).

John Piper outlines the Gospel in his book, *Finally Alive*, "It comes as a God-given, clear-headed, conscious embrace of the historical person Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and Treasure of our life. Look at Him in the Gospel—the story of His life and death and resurrection and what they mean for your life. See His glory and His truth. Receive Him and believe in His name. And you will be a child of God."

The Gospel stands alone! Good deeds are the result of salvation through Christ through the Gospel (Ephesians 2:8-9, 10). We are to trust God to build into our lives character qualities taught in the Word of God in obedience to Christ, but these are not the Gospel, but the results which help and prove that we have turned to faith in Christ. But the Gospel stands alone!