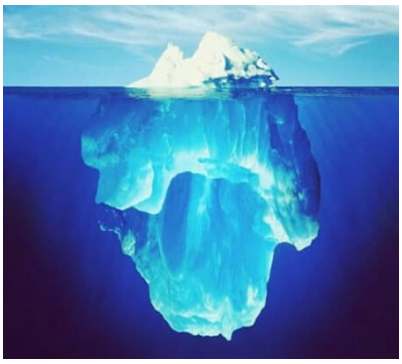
Elements of the Gospel

Is forgiveness all there is, OR is it only the tip of the iceberg?



1. **Forgiveness** of all wrong from before the creation of the world! When we express forgiveness, we are confirming that it has been and remains accomplished; we are not making it happen.
2. **Adoption.** According to our human nature, God adopts us as His own, even though our nature is corrupted to be always, only, entirely rebellious against Him and the rest of our human family.
3. **Atonement.** We are covered with the perfect life of Christ. Everything we think, say, and do (or fail to do) takes place under this canopy of grace.
4. **Imputing** the perfect life of Christ to us. All of our debt is transferred to Him; all of His wealth is transferred to us. You see this happen when Barabbas is released and Jesus is crucified.
5. **Cleanses** the heart, though corruption persists in asserting itself.
6. **Regenerates** our soul so that it has the mind of Christ and Spirit of God. This essence of our person never does wrong and never dies (in time or eternity).
7. **Puts at rest,** since faith/belief/trust means to be at rest from all labor and concern for self.
8. **Makes us heirs** of the kingdom of heaven (of a dead and risen elder brother).
9. **Energizes** us with His Word, continually regenerating and moving us according to His will.
10. **Makes all thing work together for our good.** All aspects of nature work to impress upon us our disabilities, inabilities, and complete dependence on God, by natural and special revelation. Sooner or later, one way or another, God's creation and redeeming activity draw us back into His providential, saving work.
11. Sacraments are **God's promises joined to universal physical elements,** objectively confirming God's saving work in our lives, as often as beneficial.
12. Good works are **God's work in us**, the inevitable fruit of having been given everything by God and as evidence of joy.
13. Judgment Day is no longer a threat, but a fulfillment and a blessing; Jesus calls it "**the resurrection to life**."
14. Resurrection **returns a physical nature to our person, a perfect everlasting body**, like the resurrected Jesus, which will live in paradise in the new heaven and earth.
15. **Jesus** as eternal high priest **advocating** for us.
16. **Holy Spirit** interceding for us and **calling alongside** of us.