

What Is The Gospel? - 10/2/22

TEXT – 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

INTRO – The gospel is simple. People have been saved by hearing John 3:16. Children can understand it and most people are saved in their youth. But the study of the doctrine of soteriology (The doctrine of salvation) is one of great misunderstanding. How many have a false assurance of salvation?

The thief on the cross simply said “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” -- Luke 23:42

Paul writing to the Corinthian church describes the gospel in a nutshell. In addition, he emphasized the power of the gospel in his ministry.

Romans 1:15-16 *So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

The word is used in numerous ways:

In the synoptic gospels it is referred to as:

- The Gospel of the kingdom
- The Gospel of God
- The gospel of Christ

Paul in his epistles referred to it is as:

- The mystery of the gospel
- Gospel of the grace of God
- Gospel of peace
- Fellowship of the gospel
- Defense of the gospel
- Faith of the gospel
- Truth of the gospel
- Hope of the gospel
- Glorious gospel

In Revelation it is called:

- The everlasting gospel

Scripture warns us to beware of:

- A false gospel

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

- **Another gospel**

Galatians 1:6-9 *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

Do not be fooled by the devil’s wiles. Jesus did it all and paid it all with His Blood because we couldn’t without going to hell forever. Remember, false gospels seek to exalt a sinner’s ability to save themselves (impossible), while the true Gospel exalts the Lord Jesus Christ alone and His shed Blood.

The gospel is to be:

- Believed

Mark 1:15 . . . *the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

- Preached to all the world

Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

- Labor in it

Philippians 4:3 . . . *those women which laboured with me in the gospel*

- Obey it

2 Thessalonians 1:8 *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

The gospel is powerful:

Romans 1:15-16 *So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

It is rejected and ignored at one’s own peril

Simply put the Gospel is Good news

Vines expository dictionary defines it as:

In the NT it denotes the "good tidings" of the kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ, to be received by faith, on the basis of His expiatory death, His burial, resurrection, and ascension,

I. What the gospel is not:

- Good works
- Baptism
- Church membership
- Knowledge of the Bible
- Inherited through family
- Sincerity
- Following the golden rule
- Giving money
- Keeping the ten commandments
- Speaking in tongues
- Performing miracles
- Experiencing visions
- Reforming your life
- Receiving Jesus in your heart
- Making Jesus Lord
- Publicly professing faith
- Praying a prayer
- A belief in God
- Confession of sins

James 2:19 *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

II. What The Gospel Is

A. The result of responding to the message of the gospel

1. Redemption
2. Born of God
3. Quickened (Made alive)
4. Regenerated
5. Adopted
6. Saved (From hell to heaven)
7. Possess eternal life
8. Adopted into the family of God
9. Justification

B. Hearing the message of the gospel

Romans 10:14-15 *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Rom 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God*
Matthew 13:13 *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.*

The gospel is understood by hearing or reading about it.

What is the clear message of the gospel which needs to be understood in order to be saved.

1. What must be understood

a. The substitutionary death of Christ

b. The total inability of the flesh

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Romans 10:9-13 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

C. How can be believe thew gospel and be saved?

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Romans 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

1. Faith

a. A belief that what Jesus did on the cross was enough to pay for all our sins

b. A belief that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice and that He rose from the grave to intercede for us.

3. Repentance - A turning from your unbelief and good works and turning to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is not repenting of a single sin but of the condition of sin as being lost.

CONCL –

Once a person has recognized that they are a sinner, **believed the true Gospel**, and as a result been born again via the Holy Spirit, God does understandably **desire** then for those believers to go on and live a life of obedience to Him.