

Is the Gospel Like a Smart Phone? - And If So, How?

My wife got a new smart phone for Christmas, and this thing is amazing. I am not sure if you are like me, but my understanding of a cell phone was limited to talking and taking pictures. That was the extent of my knowledge of a cell phone.

Well this new phone does so much more for us than just allowing us to talk on it. In addition to talking pictures, if you are on the road and need to know the location of the nearest Denny's, it not only tells you where it is, but acts as a G.P.S. to direct you to the place. Want to know how your favorite team did last night in the game, just ask. Want to know the meaning of a word, just talk into it and ask. You can speak into it asking anything, and it gives you answers.

There seems to be no limit as to what this phone can do.

When you read the book of Romans, you notice first off that the Apostle Paul is writing to the "Saints" who are in Rome. We deduce from this greeting that these folks had a relationship with the Lord Jesus. Next you find Paul telling them that their "faith" is spoken of throughout the whole world. In other words, as believers in the Lord, their relationship was known throughout the whole world. He was writing to people who were already Christians.

Yet, he desired to bring to them the "gospel." Well if you are like many Christians today you would limit the understanding of the "**gospel**" to "Jesus died for your sins, and if you believe that, you will go to heaven. Having that understanding is like me with the old cell phone.

The "gospel" is so much more than just going to heaven. Paul further states in verse 15 of Chapter 1, "So, as much as is in me, I am ready to *preach the gospel* to you who are in Rome also." Obviously he was addressing people who are on their way to heaven. You do not need to tell people who are already saved, that they need to hear the gospel if the gospel is limited to just "going to heaven."

Paul further states in verse 16 of Chapter one, "*he is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.*"

What Paul is referring to here is that within the understanding of the "gospel" there is so much more for the believer to understand than just going to heaven when he dies. He then goes on to describe what these believers presently have as a result of their relationship with the Lord Jesus. He explains their; "propitiation", "sanctification", soundness of mind, healing, imputation, righteousness etc. all of which they currently possess. That is why he states in verse 13 of chapter one that he might have "some fruit among them also, just as among other Gentiles."

He saw "fruit in their lives" as explaining to them the things they presently have and could enjoy if they just knew what they presently have.

In other words, he wants to increase their knowledge of what was already theirs because of their relationship with the Lord.

Paul was doing with these believers at Rome, the same thing that Sally is doing with me regarding her new phone. Every time she discovers something new that the phone will do, we

get excited. The more we study the phone, the more we find it will do for us. As you and I spend time in the Scriptures, learning about the Lord Jesus, we too find we have so much more available for us today, than just one day; “going to heaven.”

Every time you sit under teachings from either your Sunday school teacher, or your Pastor, you are learning about the wonderful things that Jesus has for you today. You could be spending time at the cell phone store learning about all the things your new “smart phone” will do. Or, you could be attending the church of your choice and learning what it means to be in relationship with the creator of the universe.

Right now, I am doing both. How about you?

Have a “great” day.