

## The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul said in **Romans 1:16**- "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also to the Greek (Gentile).

Well, what is the gospel? If it is so powerful that it brings man to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, what does it consist of?

**Mark 1:1** says; "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as it was written in the prophets; a) a messenger will come who will b). prepare your way before you, c) a voice crying in the wilderness: "prepare the way of the Lord; Make His path straight"

Speaking of the Lord Jesus, Mark explains that His gospel will prepare a way for you to come to him and make your path straight.

Jesus said that the time is fulfilled and to repent (change your mind about something) and believe the **gospel**.

Jesus said it, Paul repeats it and still we fail to understand just what is the **gospel** of Jesus Christ?

In **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15**, Paul explains what the gospel is. He says in verse **1 & following**, moreover brethren, I declare to you the **gospel** which I preached to you (a) which you also received (b) and then (c) in which you stand, and (d) by which you are saved, since you hold fast the word that I have preached to you (unless you believed in vain)

Wow, that is the gospel/

Paul continues in **verse 3**: for I delivered to you first of all that which I also received that (1) Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that (2) He was buried and that (3) He arose on the third day, according to the Scriptures"

Now why am I going into such detail here about the gospel?

According to Paul, if we are going to ever "stand" we must do so through our understanding of the gospel.

Paul further cautioned the Galatian Church (Gentile believers) in **verse 6 of chapter 1**: "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ **to a different gospel**."

Apparently, the Gentile believers were soon to move to another gospel other than the one that Paul preached.

Paul further states in **verse 7** that what they were believing as the gospel of Jesus Christ, was not the real thing. *“Which is not another, but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.”*

Paul said two times in the first chapter that these folks should be **accursed**. Vs 8&9.. This is an interesting word accursed – it literally means to be “cut off” or “excommunicated” from the life of Christ.

It is the same word Paul uses of himself in **Romans 9:3** which He says *“I could wish that I myself were accursed (cut off excommunicated, from Christ) from my brethren (the Jew) if it would in some way make them see the truth about Jesus Christ.”*

So, what I want us to understand that any perversion of the gospel is a serious matter in the eyes of the Lord.

In Galatians **chapter 2** Paul mentions that Peter and Barnabus were guilty of hypocrisy in that they had withdrawn themselves from their Gentile friends when confronted by their Jewish brethren, and in their teaching that they were trying to get the gentiles to live as the Jew (under rules, regulations, law and bondage). Teaching them that they needed to be justified before God by the keeping of the law.

The gospel of Jesus Christ has nothing to do with “doing” and everything to do with “believing.”

Jesus told His disciples to go and preach the gospel - **In Acts chapter 2** starting in verse **22** the Apostle Peter begins the preaching of the gospel and guess what? It is all about Jesus. The only mention of the “folks” is that they crucified this Man Jesus Christ.

Notice something wonderful if you will as we end this chapter. They remained in fellowship as Peter exhorted them to separate themselves from the current perverse generation, and get ahold of this Man Christ Jesus.

Peter continued his teachings about this Jesus, and they received this gospel message. Many signs and wonders were done among them as they continued in fellowship with one another, began to share what they had with one another, sold their possessions and divided what they had with one another as anyone who had a need, it was met.

They continued daily with one another, went from house to house and shared what they had, eating their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.

Wouldn't that be a great testimony for any church today?

Guess what? They found favor with all of the people and the Lord added to the church daily, those who were being saved.

Now I want you to notice something. The message they were hearing was not about them. That is Peter was not admonishing them about their problems. He was not criticizing them about their shortcomings. Nothing is mentioned about their attitude or their ungratefulness or their being in sin.

Jesus was lifted up among the people as they shared, ate and fellowshiped with one another.

Beloved, the gospel of Jesus Christ is not about you and me. We are not the center of attention. What is wrong with us as a people is not the gospel. Where I lack in my daily walk either in prayer of giving or fasting, is not the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What I want to emphasize today is the importance of all messages preached to the Saints has got to be the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to know Him. We need to learn more about Him. He has got to be preeminent in all of our messages.

If He be lifted up, He will draw all men unto Himself.

I wonder if those who are entrusted with the unique message of “preaching” are really looking to the author and finisher of their faith.

When was the last time you went to church and heard nothing but Him? Who He is, what He endured, what are His attributes, desires etc. What He has done in order to capture you and your heart.

We will not change as a people if the “” gospel message” preached to us on Sunday is about us.

Don't worry about change in you. While you were yet a sinner, He died for you.

Leave church looking at one another and declaring, “I didn't know that about Him” Why is so much time given to our shortcomings, when He died for us as we are?

Ask someone who knows about mathematics, or riding a horse, or fishing a brook or building a building, or maintaining a garden and you will be in for a long dissertation while as they expound on and on about things they know and understand.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if every teacher of the gospel, could expound on and on about what Jesus is doing on the earth today?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if your fellowship with other people included your testimony about who Jesus is, and what He has done on this earth today?

Death, burial and resurrection is the heart of the Gospel. The gospel of Jesus Christ is only about me as I am able to expound on His goodness, His mercy, His love and affection for me.

If in fact He became “sin” on the cross, why so much discussion about our “missing the mark”. When we meet Him face to face, He will spend no time talking to me about my sin. He will probably talk about my not trusting Him more, or believing Him for greater things in my life. He may even talk to me about how much more He had for me than I ever requested.

Paul said in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:3&4** “I do not even judge myself” **vs 4** – for I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this. Yet we know that Paul was a murderer, yet not spending any time looking at what he has done or is not doing.

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