

The Simple Gospel

By Kenneth L. Randolph, *Heart to Heart*

Curtis Cates, Sr., told of hearing Charlie Wheeler preach when brother Cates was but a boy. He said that Wheeler's sermon was so simple that, though but a lad, he thought to himself: "I believe I could preach like that; it is so simple!"

Wheeler's simplicity in preaching stirred the idea of preaching in a young man's heart. That simple style later characterized Cates' preaching also. True gospel preaching is simple because the gospel is simple.

To say that the gospel is "simple" does not mean that it is not rich and deep. It means the gospel is free from complexity; it is not complicated. It is not hard to understand; it is unaffected, natural, and plain.

The gospel comes to the point. It declares plainly that man is a sinner who cannot save himself. It speaks in clear and tragic tones of the consequences of a life of sin. The gospel makes no attempt to classify sinners into categories, such as rich and poor, black and white, young and old. It starkly declares: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

The gospel does not complicate the means by which sinners are saved. It states plainly that there is but one way, through Christ (John 14:6). In coming to God, the sinner has simple facts to believe—the death of Jesus "for our sins," His burial, and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1–4). He has simple commands to obey—believe, repent, confess, and be baptized (Mark 16:16; Romans 10:10; Acts 2:38). Belief of those facts and obedience to those commands secures the simple but sublime promises: forgiveness of sins, all spiritual blessings, and hope of life eternal! The gospel teaches that the way of life is plain and narrow, but lighted by the lamp of eternal day.

The gospel is declared to be "the power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16). It draws its power from a rugged and bloodstained cross. The cross at its core gives the gospel the simple, rational appeal to reach the intellect; it paints the story of divine love in vivid colors to move the emotions; it storms the ramparts of the stubborn soul to change the will.

The gospel story tells of the Son of God as a man moving among the common people, who heard Him gladly (Mark 12:37). It speaks of love that came down (John 1:14). It pictures Christ concerned about the problems of life: the plight of the poor (Matthew 25:40); the fever of Peter's mother-in-law (8:14–15); the fear of the disciples (17:6); and the sorrow of Mary and Martha (John 11:35). It shows Him moved with compassion for the ignorant, the straying, and the lost (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 20:34; Mark 1:41; Luke 7:13).

God made the gospel simple so we could all learn and follow it. Have you?

Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Halbert has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He will have an additional test in Springdale before deciding treatment.
- ♦ Melinda Abraham's EEG test was normal. Wednesday she had biopsies on her thyroid. She will wear a heart monitor for two weeks. She is still passing out almost daily.
- ♦ Greg Dillon was able to complete his heart stress test this week.
- ♦ Cadyn Deakins will have her second hip surgery September 3rd.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Ruth Strain, Coe Hamm, Vicki Boland.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Dale Strong, Terry Pennington, Pat McKaig, Ricky Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Donna Shipley, Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Jana Crisp, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Dan Harvey.
- ♦ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes, Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ♦ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.



The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word,



and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!
Matthew 13:23

YOUR JOB IS TO PLANT THE SEED NOT CHANGE THEIR HEART.



DON'T GET YOUR ROLE AND GOD'S ROLE MIXED UP

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
8-9	Paul Wade	8-29	Bill and Aleta Collins (66)
8-10	Lisa Goodnight	8-29	Chuck and Amy Myers (34)
8-12	Gunner Hambelton	8-30	Hope and Corey Hillhouse (23)
8-18	Marsha Crisp		
8-22	John Hill		

Date	Event	Details
Wed., 8/26	Singing Night	Join us and enjoy
Wed. 9/2	Fellowship supper starts	Eat supper at 6 p.m. Classes at 7 p.m.
Sunday 9/6	Children's classes move up if grade/age changes	New teachers and new curriculum
Saturday 9/12 9:00—noon, then lunch	Ladies Day at Willow Springs Church of Christ	"Stronger than the Storm" Courtney Sanders, speaker.
Saturday 9/26 10 a.m.	Ladies' Prayer Brunch	Clear Springs Baptist at Dawt

Church Signs

- ✦ Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.
- ✦ Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings.
- ✦ Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- ✦ Christians, keep the faith—but not from others!
- ✦ Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.
- ✦ If you don't want to reap the fruits of sin, stay out of the devil's orchard.
- ✦ To belittle is to be little.

August Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

8-23 Don Luna
8-30 David Stevens

Communion & Closing Prayer

Halbert Smith
Waylon Strong

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna

The Family News

August 23, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***The Sower, the Seed, and the Soil***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#622, *Ring out the Message*; #639, *Rescue the Perishing*

#361, *Nailed to the Cross*; Communion Service

#643, *Sowing the Seed of the Kingdom*

Sermon and Invitation

#940, *Only a Step*

#648, *Stand up, Stand up for Jesus*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us