

“What is the Gospel: Part 1”

I. Review:

- A. What does it mean to evangelize?
- B. What does it mean to be a witness? Are we witnesses?
- C. Is it our duty to evangelize or to be a witness?
 1. We are called to be lights in the world.
 - a. Matt. 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do *men* light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."
 - b. Phil 2:14 "Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.
 2. We are to tell of the things Christ has done for us.
 - a. Mark 5:19 And He did not let him, but He *said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and *how* He had mercy on you." 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone marveled.
 - b. Also the example of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) and the blind man who was healed (John 9).
 - c. Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death."
 3. But is it enough to relate our experiences, or is there a message we are to share?
 - a. Col. 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. 5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, *as it were*, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.
 - b. 1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE

TROUBLED, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

- c. Matt. 10:32 "Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 "But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

II. What is the Gospel?

A. Meaning of the word.

1. Gospel (euaggelion).

- a. Its basic meaning is that of "good news."
- b. The 1828 edition of Webster's Dictionary defines it in this way: "[Sax. *godspell*; *god*, good, and *spell*, history, relation, narration, word, speech, that which is uttered, announced, sent or communicated; answering to the Gr. *euaggelion*, L. *evangelium*, a good or joyful message.] The history of the birth, life, actions, death, resurrection, ascension, and doctrines of Jesus Christ; or a revelation of the grace of God to fallen man through a mediator, including the character, actions, and doctrines of Christ, with the whole scheme of salvation, as revealed by Christ and his apostles. This gospel is said to have been preached to Abraham, by the promise, 'in thee shall all nations be blessed.' Gal. 3:8."
- c. The gospel is the good news of forgiveness to undeserving sinners as a free gift of God's grace.

2. Will anyone ever be saved apart from the Gospel? It is the only message by which anyone will ever be saved.

- a. Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
- b. 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- c. 1 Corinthians 15:1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

- d. Rom. 10:9-10 If you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; 10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. . . . 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."
- e. What about those in parts of the world where the Gospel has never gone?
- (i) Is Natural or General Revelation enough to save them? What is it enough to do?
 - (ii) Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
 - (iii) Rom. 10:14 How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"
- f. Let me just point out again that this message is the only God-ordained means of salvation. No one will be saved without it. If we have it, what should we do?
- (i) If we heard of someone who was dying from a poison or a disease, and we were the only ones who had the cure, wouldn't we go to that person with the antidote to save their lives?
 - (ii) How much more should we when their souls are in danger of eternal damnation, and we have the only words which can save them? It may not come from anyone else. We may be the only ones who ever share it with them.
 - (iii) Love dictates that we should. Jesus tells us that we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. If we don't want ourselves to perish, then neither should we want them to perish.
- B. Since the Gospel is important, and without it no one can be saved, it is also important that we know very clearly what it is. What are the basic elements of the Gospel?
1. Doctrine of God.
 - a. The Trinity.
 - b. Creator.
 - c. Sovereignty.
 - d. Holiness and justice.
 - e. Love.
 2. Doctrine of Sin.
 - a. What is sin?
 - b. What is the penalty of sin?
 - c. What payment must be made in order to atone for sin?

3. Doctrine of Man.
 - a. What was man like when he was created?
 - b. How did the Fall affect man?
 - c. Can a man save himself?

4. Doctrine of Christ.
 - a. How many natures does Christ have?
 - b. Virgin birth.
 - c. Perfect life.
 - d. Atoning death.
 - e. Prophet, priest and king.

5. Doctrine of Conversion.
 - a. What is faith?
 - (i) What kinds of faith are there?
 - (ii) What are the three elements of a true and saving faith?

 - b. What is repentance?
 - (i) What kinds of faith are there?
 - (ii) What are the three elements of a genuine repentance?

 - c. Four different reactions to the truth. (Parable of the Sower).
 - d. Counting the cost.

6. Doctrine of the Assurance of Salvation.
 - a. What are the marks of salvation?
 - b. When should assurance be given?
 - c. What about the carnal Christian?