

“What is the Gospel: Part 2”

I. Review:

- A. What does it mean to evangelize?
- B. What does it mean to be a witness? Are we witnesses?
- C. How can we bear witness to the Gospel?
 - 1. We are called to be lights in the world. Matt. 5:16 "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."
 - 2. We are to tell of the things Christ has done for us. Mark 5:19 "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."
 - 3. We are to share with them the Gospel. 1 Pet. 3:15, "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." Col. 4:5-6, "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 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." Matt. 10:32, "Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

D. What is the Gospel?

- 1. What does the word mean? Gospel (euaggelion): "good news."
- 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."
 - 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."
 - c. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, "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."
 - d. Is natural revelation enough to save anyone? No. It can only condemn them. Romans 1:18-20; 2:14-15. They must hear the Gospel. 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?"
 - e. We must share what we have, or there are those around us who will perish.

II. What are the elements of the Gospel?

- A. What must a man must do in order to be saved?
 - 1. He must believe.
 - a. Believe on whom? The Lord Jesus Christ.

- b. If he does believe, what will happen? He will be saved.
2. But who is the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - a. He is the Son of God.
 - b. He is the Son of Man.
 - c. He was born of the Virgin.
 - d. He came to save His people from their sins.
 3. But who or what is God?
 - a. God is an infinite, eternal and unchangeable spirit.
 - b. He is the Creator of all things.
 - c. He is the triune God, three in person, but one in substance. He is one spirit, but there are three persons in that one spirit.
 4. Who are those three persons?
 - a. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 - b. All three persons are God and are equal in power and glory.
 - c. Jesus is the Son.
 5. What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of Man?
 - a. He is man, as well as God.
 - b. He was born of the Virgin Mary.
 6. What does it mean that He was born of a Virgin?
 - a. He did not have a human father, but a divine One.
 - b. He did have a human mother. But she did not conceive Him in the way children are ordinarily conceived.
 - c. The reason He was conceived in her womb was that the Son of God might become a man.
 7. Why is it important that Jesus be a man?
 - a. It was man who sinned. Man therefore owed the debt to God's justice.
 - b. Jesus became a man in order to save man.
 8. What was it that man needed to do?
 - a. He needed to obey perfectly. He needed to be without sin.
 - b. Jesus, as a man, obeyed perfectly, and laid down His life to pay for the sins of His people.
 9. Why was it important that Jesus is God?
 - a. Jesus had to be God, so that He could do what the Father had called Him to do.
 - b. He had to be God so that the value of His life and death would be valuable enough to save His people.
 10. Did Jesus stay dead after He died?
 - a. No. He rose again from the dead on the third day.

- b. He then ascended up into heaven, where He will remain until He comes again to judge all men at the end of this age.
11. Why do we need what Jesus did?
- a. Because we have sinned. We sinned in Adam, and we have sinned many times since on our own.
 - b. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. God is a just God and cannot overlook sin.
12. What is sin?
- a. Sin is doing what God tells us not to do.
 - b. It is also not doing what He tells us to do.
 - c. God created us. He is sovereign. He has the right to tell us what to do. And when we don't do it, we have sinned.
13. How did Adam's sin affect us?
- a. When Adam sinned, he sinned as our representative.
 - b. Before the Fall, he was a perfect man, and therefore a perfect representative.
 - c. When he fell, he was condemned and became a sinner.
 - d. The same thing that happened to him also happened to us.
14. But why does God condemn us for something Adam did?
- a. Because God appointed Adam as the representative of the human race in the Covenant of Works. What he did would then affect every one of his children, for good or for bad.
 - b. He disobeyed God and forfeited eternal life for all of his children.
 - c. Because he did this, we were also born sinners and have sinned everyday of our lives.
 - d. We are under God's wrath, and will be condemned to everlasting hell, unless we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus.
15. What is hell?
- a. Hell is a place of eternal torment and suffering.
 - b. It is a place where God has removed all of His goodness, and displays only His wrath.
 - c. And since the sins we have committed are against an infinitely holy God, our suffering will go on forever.
16. How then can we be saved?
- a. We cannot save ourselves, since we are already sinners. There is nothing we can do.
 - b. Instead we must receive what Christ did for sinners. We must repent of our sins. And we must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
17. What does it mean to repent and believe?
- a. To repent means to turn from all of your sins: sins of omission, as well as sins of

commission.

- b. To believe means that knowing the truth and believing it, you then trust in Christ's perfect life and atoning death to save you from your sins.

18. What does the Lord promise us if we repent and believe?

- a. He promises to take away the guilt of our sins.
- b. He promised to give to us the righteousness of Christ.
- c. He promises to take us to be with Him in heaven forever.

19. How can we know that we have truly repented and believed?

- a. We can know that we are saved if we love the Lord, not only for what He give us, but especially for who He is.
- b. We can know that we are saved if we do what He commands, out of love, and not in order to save ourselves, especially the command to forsake all and to follow Him.
- c. We can know when we have willingly and lovingly accepted Christ in His three offices of prophet, priest and king.
- d. As prophet, we listen to what He says for our salvation.
- e. As priest, we receive His atoning death on our behalf.
- f. And as king, we bow our knee before Him in loving obedience.

20. Why would God save anyone?

- a. The only reason is that God is a God of love.
- b. He will punish forever all those who die in their sins.
- c. But if we repent and believe in His Son, this shows that God has foreloved us from all eternity.