

# LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

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The Gospel of Christ

1Cor.15:1-5

## Introduction:

1. The Gospel of Christ is God's law of pardon to the alien sinner, and His law of instruction to the Christian, revealed through the Holy Spirit, and recorded in the New Testament. It fulfills man's greatest need, the need of salvation. In so doing, it reveals the extent of God's love and respect for man. In its broadest sense, salvation includes the cleansing of our consciences from all past guilt, and the delivery of our souls from all those inclinations of evil which were so predominate within us. Paul writes in Rom.7:4 "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death?" Since the scriptures proclaim that the "gospel is the power of God unto salvation." Rom.1:16. what are the outstanding characteristics of the Gospel?

How shall we describe it?

**I. The Gospel is Perfect.** James 1:5 "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." That which is perfect cannot be improved upon by addition, subtraction, or substitution. To try and change it in anyway, is to mar its perfection.

1. Some in Paul's day attempted to preach "another gospel" Gal.1:6-9

2. The Law of Moses could not bring perfection Heb.7:19 "for the law made nothing perfect, on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God." That better hope is the gospel.

3. So the law was only a "shadow of good things to come." "not the very image of the things." Heb.10:1

4. Eternal life was not known with any degree of certainty until Christ came.

5. "The holiest of all was not yet made manifest while the tabernacle was yet standing." Heb. 9:8 . That is, the way for man to be saved was not known until the gospel was preached.

## **II. The Gospel is Powerful.** Romans 1:16

1. A single hydrogen bomb can flatten NY City, but lacks the power necessary to save a single soul or to raise a single person from the dead.

2. On Aug. 5, 1945 we bombed Japan with a bomb equal to 20,000 tons of TNT. The devastation was unbelievable. That is destructive power.

3. The Gospel is constructive in nature. It's power builds instead of destroys. It is not a feeble and ineffectual instrumentality, but it is mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." 2Cor. 10:4

4. The Gospel has the power to:

(1) Remove the Guilt of Sin. A person is guilty when he is justly chargeable for his sin, when the responsibility for his conduct is his. When one sets aside the law of God, he sins. Psa. 51:4 "against you, You only have I sinned and done this evil in your sight." Isa. 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden his face from you."

(2) Remove the Stain of Sin. The Soul of every sinner has been defiled by sin. Even the most "respectable" of sins leave their mark.

Isa. 1:18 "Though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." Acts 22:16 "Arise, be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

1Cor.6:11 "And such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

(3) Defeat the Destructive Nature of Sin. The sinner will not go very far before he finds that he is in bondage to sin.

Jno.8:34 "Whoever commits sin, is a slave of sin."

The tyranny of evil may begin with a single sinful act; but it is a universally attested fact that one sin makes another sin easier. Each sin weaves another thread in the rope which binds us, till at last our liberty is lost and the tyranny of sin is complete.

Story: Young woman in western town was the main figure in all social circles, a favorite of all. A preacher came to town, and converted her. She completely changed her life. Old friends missed her, the social events dead. Her worldly friends play a trick on her. They gave her a birthday party, then said "we have seats for the theater tonight." She refused saying "I cannot go, and I am very sorry that you have done this. Really, I never attended the theater in my life, I would be out of place." They told her--"why you have attended our parties before. You were always the life of them. "Not I" said Lucy "I buried the girl who went to the theater."

Since the Gospel is such a powerful force for good, WE SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED:

1. Of The Remedy Which The Gospel Offers for the Sins of the World. 1John1:7 "For if we walk in the light as he is in the light, the blood of his Son cleanses us from all sin." Rom.6:3-4 "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

It is a sure cure for sin, sadness, and sorrow.

2. Of The Effect Which the Gospel Had on the People of World.

Archimedes, the famous Greek engineer said: "Give me a lever long enough and a prop strong enough, and I can single handed move the world."

Such an opportunity came to the disciples of Jesus in, the early days of the Church. Acts 17:6 "But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."

Note the effect the gospel has had on the world in general, i.e. banishment of slavery, humane considerations both in peacetime and war, the elevation of women etc.

### 3. Of the Results of the Gospel as Manifested in the Followers of Christ.

Note the list of disciples in Rom. 16. Paul was not ashamed of them.

We cannot afford to be ashamed of those who are humbly and sincerely endeavoring to follow the Lord.

### **III. The Gospel Is Complete. 2Tim.3:16-17**

The all-sufficiency and absolute adequacy and adaptability of the Bible to meet the demands of the human family is affirmed in this passage. The Christian believes that "his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." 2Pet. 1:3 If the bible thoroughly furnishes a man unto every good work, then why have any kind of supplementary guide book. Would not the adoption of such a book show a lack of full trust in the all sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures?

**IV. The Gospel is Enduring. Mt.24:35** "Heaven and earth shall pass but my word shall never pass away." 1Pet.1:25 "But the word of the Lord endures forever, Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you."

The word of the Lord is unmoved, fixed, and permanent. Empires rise and fall, kingdoms come and go; but the word of God abides. The gospel system is as lovely now as when first revealed to man, and it has as much power to save now as it had when first applied to a human heart. Since man has not changed physically, and morally; sin has not changed; the adversary, Satan, has not changed; hence, why attempt to change the remedy to overcome sin?

### **V. I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel. Rom.1:16**

Paul contemplating a trip to Rome to preach the gospel. He had already preached it in some of the great political, philosophical, and religious centers of the world, where he had been unashamed. Now to the capital of Roman Empire, the mightiest city on earth, he was ready to go, unashamed to preach the gospel even there.

### 1. The Gospel's Hope For The Future.

If the gospel represented a losing cause, instead of the only cause that shall conquer, we would all do well to be ashamed of it. But when we see the kingdoms of the world rise and fall and vanish, while the church goes on from age to age we know the gospel has in it the invincible power of God.

We are not ashamed of the hope the gospel gives us that a new heaven and earth will succeed the present clouded scene of turmoil and strife, anguish and pain, sin, suffering, and woe. 2Peter 8-13

## 2. The Gospel's Hope for Us As Individuals.

If a man is measured only by time and incidents and events of this world, he is but a speck that spreads its wings for a brief moment and then vanishes forever. But when measured by the gospel, by the fact that he has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and called to honor, glory, and immortality, then it can be seen that he is of eternal worth.

Philosophers of the earth leave the heart cold, and full of doubt. But not the gospel: "For this reason I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."

## 3. The Gospel is Still The Power of God Unto Salvation, But One Condition Must be Met Before Its Power is Bestowed:

...to everyone that believes. The believer willingly obeys the commands of the Gospel. Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38 etc. That includes not only faith, repentance, confession, but also baptism.

After one is baptized the gospel still moves him to do what the Lord commands. Acts 2:41-42

What effect is the gospel having on you? Have you obeyed it? If not, do so today before it is too late.