

Good News! “The Story of our Salvation” Part 1

Please Stand and Open your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Last week we left off with the Great Commission which is found in...

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

We then looked at what the main thing that He commanded them to do in...

Mark 16:15

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

So, in order to be a good steward of our Lord Jesus Christ we need to make sure we are doing just that. We need to know...

- What is the Gospel?
- How is it Preached?
- How is it Received?

Today we will look at What is the Gospel? We are going to take our time going through this series because it is a subject that has eternal consequences. Get this wrong and it could mean someone being doomed to an eternity in Hell. We don't want that at all.

What * is the Gospel?

Gospel =

Euangelion, Eu – “Good”

Aggello – “To Proclaim”

Our English word; “Evangelical”

What * is it? Good News! (Explain various ways it was used)

What's * it not...

You are saved by correct Thinking...

No, that's Christian Science

Keeping the laws and ordinances of their highly secretive organization. They take oaths unto death to keep the organization secret...

No, no, wait a minute, that's Freemasonry!

I know, do Good Deeds in the name of God, performing service for community.

Oh, shoot, that's Sikhism!

I got it, Keeping the Commandments, the Law and the rituals of the faith!

Nope, that's Judaism and for that matter you can lump in JW's, Mormon's, Catholics and about every other world Religion.

So, what is it?

That is a question that was anticipated from our reading this morning. It is a clear explanation that is explained to us, and we are now going to pick it apart to understand the message. We will get into the other aspects later.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

In these two verses we are introduced to the noun for Gospel which we talked about earlier and the verb to preach the gospel. The Noun is used 77 times in the New Testament and the verb is used 55 times. So, this is our one stop shop to how and these are used and will be our starting point for each message. But before we get into the what, notice * what the hearer gets who hears the gospel. You receive it, stand on it, and are saved by it. These are very important things to have, and we better make sure we have it right! Paul tells them that they need to “Hold Fast” to it because

if not they will have believed in vain. Why would he say that? Because some have strayed in that which they received...

Galatians 1:6-9

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Paul is writing to Corinth a corrective letter and chapter 15 is about a problem they had with the resurrection. His answer is important because the resurrection of Christ is central to the gospel. We see here in Galatia they had the same problem. We find out that Paul was still correcting them on this in his second letter to them...

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

The main focus of these warnings was to a group called the Judaizers. These were a group of Jews that wanted to force the gentiles to become circumcised and follow the law of Moses. We will deal more about this when we deal with how we are saved but just so you know the context we find them here...

Acts 15:1

And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

That * doesn't sound like good news to me!

Let's get back to our scripture today and read how Paul describes the gospel...

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

Paul delivered or handed over to them the same message he received. He wanted to make sure they were passing the same message. It's the same problem today. As we continue in this study, we are going to discover modern day Judaizers. They sneak in their works by redefining terms. This deceptive work is done by creating a different dictionary. It is the slight of hand of semantics. Oh, they will use the scriptures to make their case but in order to

make it sound studious they change the literal meaning of words to front load works into the gospel. Paul was not going to put up with this and either are we. Our theology must come from the scriptures and nowhere else. We are doing this to fight the false theology that is out there, and it is everywhere! The big five-dollar word that people pay bigger money to say they have a degree in is * Soteriology which is the study or doctrine of Salvation. So many will use the study of others to gain a knowledge of this doctrine. Some churches use confessions or catechisms to make their case. Some just rely upon a Statement of Faith which we will look at few in a few weeks. We are only going to rely upon what the scriptures say and what the original lexical meaning of the words are. Paul stated it best here...

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

That brings us to main point of today. What scriptures is Paul talking about? John 3:16? The sermon on the Mount? No. The Old Testament! We will see next week how they used the Old Testament to preach the Gospel, but Paul tells us that it is "According to the Scriptures". How did he do that?

The Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-27

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

17 And He said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you [f]walk and are sad?”

18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”

19 And He said to them, “What things?”

So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. 22 Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. 23 When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. 24 And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And * beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Paul * points out three things. The first two, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and was buried. And then the last, His resurrection.

What * is Sin?

We know that the Old Testament tells us...

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

What sin is that????

Ezekiel 18:4

Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die.

But, * where does it say that Jesus died for our sins?

The Preparing:

Exodus 12:13

Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

The Prophecy:

Psalm 22:16-18

For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.

The Purging:

Isaiah 53:5-6

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

OK, * OK, I see that but what about His Resurrection?

The Preparing:

Deuteronomy 31:16

And the Lord said to Moses: "Behold, you will rest with your fathers..."

The Prophecy:

Psalm 16:10-11

For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show Me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

The Partakers:

Job 19:25-26

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God

So, * what does this mean?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

Let's look at the last verse in our reading today...

1 Corinthians 15:11

Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

We are blessed to have the whole bible and can go to the New Testament!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever (Has correct thinking) (No, keeping secret laws and ordinances) (Wait a minute, performing service in the community) (No, this is it, keep the law of Moses!) believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

It can't be that simple! You can't share that! You teach that kind of gospel they are going to run wild! They are actually going to think they have freedom or something. Come on! We got to figure out a way to put works in there! I know, Repent!

We will deal with this in depth in a few weeks, but the exact definition of that word is to change your mind. It does not mean to stop sinning. It does not mean to fall on the ground sobbing over your sins. It simple means to change your mind and agree with God you are a sinner.

Christ died for your sins, he rose from the dead and if you put your trust in Him you are saved. No ands, ifs, or buts.

Put you trust in Him today!