

Good News! The Story of Our Salvation Part 2

Please stand and open your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

We are in in part two of our series and will be looking at the second question of our outline.

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

Why is this so important?

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.

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!

We can assume that if there was a problem back then that there will be problems now. If that is the case, we better be sure we get this right. It's not something to joke about or make fun of. It is a serious subject that has eternal consequences. As we mentioned last time there are those that have crept in using the same language but a different dictionary. They do this to sneak works into the gospel. We will not do that or put up with it. If we believe we are saved by faith alone through grace alone, we need to know how that is and how to share it with others. Today we are going to embark on a survey of how the gospel was preached in the book of Acts. If we are going to live by our name "Calvary Solid Ground" and our slogan "Standing on the Solid Ground of God's word" we need to look nowhere else for our answers.

We will look at...

How it was preached to the Jews

How it was preached to the Gentiles

How it was preached in a mixed audience

We will see that it was the same message.

First, how it was Preached to the Jews

Acts 2:22-41

Acts 3:11-26

Acts 4:5-12

Acts 8:30-37

Second, how it was preached to the Gentiles:

Acts 10:24-48

(Acts 17:22-34 Next Week)

Third, how it was preached in a mixed audience:

Acts 13:26-48

Fourth, it is the same gospel!

Acts 15:1-11

We have taken the time to look at a lot of preaching. We have seen basically the same outline, who Jesus is, what He did and how to be saved. Next week we will begin looking at how the gospel is received and how we are saved. But before we leave today, I want * to go back and look at one more story in Acts and see the shortest gospel message ever preached and how easy it is to be saved...

Acts 16:16-34

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."

And he came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; 21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." 22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 So they * said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

The * obvious question is
“What are we saved from?”

We will get into this more over our next few meetings but here is one place that tells us...

John 16:7-8

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment

The bible tells us plainly...

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

And also...

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How do I receive this gift?

Acts 16:31

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

If all of this has changed your mind and you are in agreement with it, you have just repented! That is all that word means. You agree with God you are a sinner. You now see sin the way He does. That is to repent and now the gift...believe!

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast

Anything else is a false gospel. Any other definition than that what the scripture teaches is a false gospel. Twisting of words and inserting "Ands, ifs or buts" is a false gospel. This is so important because Jesus is offering you freedom. Freedom from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and soon someday from the presence of sin. By what, works? No by faith in His finished work! And, that my friends is Good News!