

The Wednesday Word, February 3, 2021: This is Gospel Truth!

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

What is the gospel? The simple answer is, the gospel is the person, doing, dying and rising again of the Lord Christ. He, Himself, is God's good news from Heaven. Since the gospel is about Him it is, therefore, not about you and not about me. It is about Jesus.

This is Gospel Truth!

The gospel, among other things, reveals God's purpose, accomplished by Christ, for the recovery of sinful people from the deplorable state into, which they had fallen (Luke 19:10; Matthew 1:21).

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The gospel tells of how God came to this earth in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was not an impersonation of God, He was, in fact, God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16).

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As a man, He obeyed God's laws and requirements on our behalf. (Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5: 21; John 15:10). I'm amazed by this grace. My only qualification for such a Saviour is that I'm such a sinner.

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As a man, Jesus made a suitable and satisfactory atonement for His people's sins. In His doing and dying, He gave us the gift of God's favour (Ephesians 1:7).

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Because of the gospel, we now have a High Priest who takes us to God (Hebrews 3:1). We can now say to the Father,

"Thy Christ who bled and died,

Up to thy throne has gone;

Himself thy love gift we accept,

We rest on Him alone."

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Christ is now in Heaven representing His blood-bought people. Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit is here on Earth opening hearts to receive the gospel. However, it must be remembered, the Spirit's work in us is not the gospel. The Spirit's work is ongoing but Christ's work is finished. By the way, the work of the Holy Spirit does not redeem us. The Spirit instead brings us to where we receive Christ's accomplished redemption as our own (Ephesians 2:1).

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Also, when it comes to faith, may we always remember that , although faith is the channel of

salvation, faith itself cannot justify us. It is not the gospel. Faith was not tried, found guilty and executed on our behalf. We rejoice that the power to believe is generated by the Holy Spirit yet this quickening (making alive) by the Spirit does not justify us. Nothing within us saves us. We are entirely saved outside ourselves by the finished work of Christ. The Spirit has baptised us into Christ (Romans 6:3-4), and in Christ, all spiritual blessings are discovered (Ephesians 1:3).

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Christ Himself is the object of faith. He is our salvation, not our faith and not our experiences. We depend on neither faith nor feelings but upon the Lord our God Himself!

“Come ye weary, heavy laden,
Bruised and mangled by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.
Not the righteous, Not the righteous, Not the righteous;
Sinners Jesus came to call.”

Joseph Hart

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To be continually amazed by the gospel, it helps to continually keep it in mind. Our gospel is much more than an innocent man dying for the guilty. As we meditate on the Finished Work we recall that the man of the gospel was none other than the God-Man. Watch Him revealing God to us. Then see Him being reckoned as a the vilest of all sinners and then, in majesty, putting sin away (Hebrews 9:26).

Because of what the Lord has done, if we feel our sin, it ought not to drive us away from Christ. No indeed, the feeling of our sin ought to propel us towards Christ.

The curse and damnation of His people fell on Him 2000 years ago at Calvary. He was slaughtered, and we were set free. He was raised from the dead in power and majesty, and we were raised with Him (Colossians 3:1).

“Faith claims Jesus as King
As our all-atoning Priest;
It claims no merit of its own,
But looks for all in Christ.
Benjamin Beddome

And that's the Gospel Truth!