

Preached on 10/2/22 at GBC - Ruston

"MY Gospel, Part 2"

Gal.1:12-14

In **THREE** different verses, the Apostle Paul referred to the message that he had been called to preach as “*my Gospel*” - “*In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to **MY GOSPEL**.*”(Rom.2:16); “*Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to **MY GOSPEL**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.*”(Rom.16:25); “*Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to **MY GOSPEL**.*”(II Tim.2:8) In each instance, the word translated “*gospel*” means the same thing - ‘glad tidings of salvation through Christ or the proclamation of the grace of God revealed and pledged in Christ’. Paul’s message, like the message of His Lord, as well as the message of all those who would follow in every generation is one of **FULL, FREE JUSTIFICATION AND ETERNAL LIFE** based on Christ’s accomplished work of redemption, with absolutely **NO CONDITIONS** on the sinner – “*But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, **Not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*”(Tit.3:4-7) Paul has made it very clear by his opening words in this letter to the Galatian believers that what those Judaizers were preaching, which he called “*another gospel*”, on which he pronounced **ANATHEMA TWICE**, is infinitely different from the Gospel he had declared to them, and the Gospel he would once again confirm to their eyes by his letter – **Read Vss.8-11.**

Let’s begin this morning with Vs.12 – “*For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught [it], but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*” Let me read a literal translation of this verse – “for neither did I from man receive it, nor was I taught [it], but through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” I would think this statement was aimed at the false messengers (**those Judaizers**) who sought to “*bewitch*” these Galatian believers and put them back under the law. By declaring he didn’t receive the Gospel from man, I think Paul could be referencing the one he was trained under, the one so highly respected by the Judaizers, **Gamaliel** – “*I am verily a man [which am] a Jew, born in Tarsus, [a city] in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, [and] taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.*”(Acts 22:3) There’s **NO DOUBT**, Paul learned a lot from Gamaliel. **Look at how Paul described what he was taught and learned** – “*For ye have heard of my **conversation** [which means ‘manner of life, conduct, or behavior] in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.*”(Vss.13,14) **Think about it this way:** Paul learned the **LAW** from Gamaliel; He had advanced in the knowledge and traditions of the Jews religion under Gamaliel; **BUT HE NEVER HEARD ONE THING** concerning the Gospel in any or all of the instruction he received. Matter of fact, everything he was taught by man and everything he learned from man just compounded his natural prejudice and hatred of the Gospel of God’s free grace, actually hastening him on in “*a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.*” Here’s what all that well-intentioned

teaching accomplished in the life of Saul of Tarsus – “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”(Rom.10:1-3) By Paul’s words in Vs.12, whatever he had received from man, and whatever man had taught him, **WAS NOT THE GOSPEL**, it was not ‘glad tidings’, but drudgery and slavery! The message Paul now gladly and dogmatically declared, the message for which he lived and would eventually die, he received it **ONE WAY** - “by revelation of Jesus Christ.” That word “revelation” means ‘laying bare, making naked, **disclosure of truth concerning things before unknown**’. One of my favorite people in the New Testament, old Simeon, used the same word – “And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name [was] Simeon; and the same man [was] just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light **to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel**.”(Lk.2:25-32) Our Lord used the same word as well, and the way Christ used the word shines a great deal of light on Paul’s words concerning **HOW** he came to see, know, and understand God’s Gospel – “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and [he] **to whomsoever the Son will reveal** [him].”(Matt.11:25-27) Saul of Tarsus (the Apostle Paul) wasn’t **LOOKING FOR** or **SEEKING** a God who “justifieth the ungodly.” What he had been taught and what he by nature embraced led him to a god of his own imagination, a god who would assist him in being the best that he could be – “For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.”(Rom.7:5) No unregenerate sinner can see the evil in doing their best to avoid sin and doing their best in trying to obey God in order to obtain salvation. I can teach you a lot of truth, and I hope every time I preach the Gospel I am speaking simply and rationally concerning the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. You can learn a lot of truths from the Scriptures **ABOUT** Christ. But unless He is pleased to reveal Himself in you and to you, **the light that you have is the greatest darkness** – “But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great [is] that darkness!”(Matt.6:23) Think how this **REVELATION** of Christ changed everything about Paul’s mindset concerning “sin, righteousness, and judgment to come.” Before this **REVELATION** he was going about to establish a righteousness – **Vss.13,14**. After this **REVELATION**, he lived “by the faith of the Son of God.” **What was this** “revelation of Jesus Christ”? Turn to **Rom.3:20-25**. The Lord Jesus revealed to Saul of Tarsus **JUSTIFICATION THROUGH AND BY HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ALONE**. **Consider this**: When God sent Ananias to Saul, he didn’t send him to preach the Gospel to him, **but to baptize him** and instruct him concerning his commission as the apostle to the Gentiles – **Turn over to Acts 9:6&13-18**. The difference between Saul of Tarsus and the Apostle Paul was he had been given eternal life – “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as

many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”(Jn.17:1-3)

By rehearsing the history of his own conversion experience in these verses, Paul proceeds to prove that the Gospel which he preached came from God, not man. The **importance of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus (one who hated and sought the destruction of all associated with that which was called THE WAY)**, and **his commission as the Apostle to the Gentiles** is shown by the number of times it is brought up in the New Testament. It is recorded **THREE TIMES** with slight variations in the book of Acts – **Acts 9; Acts 22; Acts 26**. Paul refers to it in **I Cor.15:8**, as well as in the verses of this chapter, all of which set forth the extraordinary way in which he was called and commissioned to preach the Gospel. His calling to preach the Gospel didn't offer any worldly advantage, but in reality brought him into intense persecution over the message he was called to preach. When the Lord sent Ananias to Saul of Tarsus, He told him this concerning His message as His chosen vessel – *“But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.”(Acts 9:15,16)* Listen to Paul's words concerning the intensity of the suffering he endured for Christ's sake many years later - *“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I [am] more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty [stripes] save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; [In] journeyings often, [in] perils of waters, [in] perils of robbers, [in] perils by [mine own] countrymen, [in] perils by the heathen, [in] perils in the city, [in] perils in the wilderness, [in] perils in the sea, [in] perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.”(II Cor.11:23-33)* I like Mr.Haldane's words concerning Paul's suffering – *“What earthly benefit could have compensated for so great a fight of afflictions! But he knew that he had **“in heaven a better and an enduring substance”**, that the sufferings of this present time were not worthy to be compared with the glory which should be revealed in him. His present afflictions were light and momentary, and wrought out for him a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; now, his enjoyment of this indescribable glory was inseparably connected with his abiding in the truth and sacrificing every worldly consideration to the service of Christ.”*

Paul learned the Gospel from the Lord Jesus by immediate revelation; and he confirms this by pointing out to the Galatians the way in which the Lord had led him and placed him in his present situation.

Now we'll come back next week and finish up this series on “My Gospel”!