

## **WHY DO I PREACH THE GOSPEL?**

**By Henry T. Mahan**

**1Corinthians 9:16**

**TV-489b**

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The apostle Paul wrote these words, in **First Corinthians 9: 16**: He said, *“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of, for necessity is laid upon me, yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel.”* Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel. My subject today is, **“Why Do I Preach The Gospel?”**

I know what Paul is saying here. I can identify with what he is saying completely. I love this scripture and I can enter into it, I have experienced it, I understand what He is saying, I think I can explain it to you. If you will look carefully at it, now listen, he says, *“Though I preach the gospel of Christ our Lord, I have nothing to glory of.”* I have no reason to boast if I preach the gospel and the Word of God accurately, truthfully and even powerfully. I have nothing in which to boast. I have no reason to brag as if I had done something great and feel that I’ve accomplished some great mission. No, I’m just a servant of God. A servant is expected to be loyal and true to His Master, is he not? Paul kept saying, *“Though I be nothing, (he said), I labored more abundantly than you all, yet not I, but Christ in me.”* *I have nothing to glory of.”* If I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of. What I have, He gave me. What I am, He made me. *“I am what I am by the grace of God.”* What I know, He taught me. You see; the glory belongs all to Him, our God.

I know what Paul is saying here, though I preach the gospel, I have nothing in which to glory, boast about or brag about at all. For he says, *“Necessity is laid upon me, I must preach the gospel.”* Why? It’s the gospel of God! I don’t dare preach any other gospel; it’s His gospel. Paul called it the gospel of God. I must preach God’s gospel. It’s the truth. I couldn’t say anything else; I’ve got to tell the truth. I have nothing to brag about or boast about, I’m just telling the truth. I can’t lie to you. It’s the gospel by which I was saved. This gospel found me and lifted me, redeemed me and gave me hope. Why would I find anything to brag about or boast about except for (in the cross of Christ)? It’s the only way to God for sinners.

If I’m standing on the street corner and you drive by in your car and stop and roll down the windows, which we’ve done many times, and you ask me for directions to a certain place, and I know where it is and I stand there, I don’t dare tell you the wrong way. I point and tell you where it is. You say, “Well, I sure am proud of you!” Don’t be proud of me, I haven’t done anything, I just told you where your goal is, I told you the way and how to get there and

how long it will take you to make it. *“Necessity is upon me; I must preach the gospel.”* And then He says, *“Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel,”* or if I lie to people.

Listen to Paul in **Galatians 1:8**; you’ve heard this haven’t you? It’s strong words! He says, *“But though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”* As we said before, so say I now again; he says, I’m going to repeat this, it’s strong and powerful, but true; *“If any man preach any other gospel unto you then that gospel which you have received, let him be accursed.”* So, though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast about or brag about, or seek man’s applause. *“Necessity is laid upon me, I must preach the gospel,”* it’s God’s gospel. It’s the truth; it’s the only way to God. It’s the only gospel by which I was saved. Should I tell men something else? *“Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel.”*

So, why do we preach the gospel? Let me give you five reasons. This will serve as my outline for today on this subject of preaching the gospel. Why do we preach the gospel? We preach the gospel because we’ve been commanded to preach the gospel. That’s why we preach the gospel. Our Lord gave these orders to His apostles. After He died on the cross for our sins, was buried and rose again and appeared to His disciples above 500 people at once, for forty days; He made personal appearances, after He arose from the grave. Then, He assembled His disciples before Him before He ascended to heaven. He said, *“All power is given unto me in heaven and earth, go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teach them to observe what things I have commanded you and you preach the gospel to every creature, and he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not, shall be damned.”* That’s why I preach the gospel. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to preach the gospel.

Paul in **First Corinthians 1**, people were talking about who baptized this one, who baptized that one, who baptized the other one. They were divided over their preachers. Some said, *“I’m of Paul, and some said, I’m of Apollos, and some said, I’m of Cephus,”* and I’m of someone else, and Paul was rebuking these people. He said, *“God didn’t send me to baptize or organize, He sent me to preach the gospel.”* You see that? When he went down to Corinth, he said to them at the mighty city of Corinth, *“I was with you in weakness and in fear and in trembling, but I determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”* That’s reason enough isn’t it? If I didn’t have the other four, wouldn’t that be reason enough to preach the Lord? My Lord, my blessed Redeemer, commanded me to preach the gospel.

In the **Book of Ezekiel** by way of illustrating, in the **Book of Ezekiel**, took His prophet Ezekiel out on a hill, overlooking a valley and there had been some sort of battle in that valley and many people had been killed. There were thousands of bones, that’s what the scripture says, *“The valley of dry bones,”* someone called it. They were bleached, barren, dry, brittle bones, lying under the desert sun for many years. They were dry as powder. Even the dogs wouldn’t have them. God sent Ezekiel to overlook this great valley of bones and this is what He asked him, He said, *“Son of man, can these bones live again?”* What did Ezekiel say? *“Lord thou knowest,”* they can’t make themselves live, I can’t make them live, You can, because You gave man life, to begin with. You gave them life when they were

born and You took their life when they died. If You're pleased, You can give it back. So You know. God spake again, and said, "*Son of man, preach to them; say to these dry bones, O ye dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord.*" Now that's the reason I preach the gospel, God commanded it. God lets me survey a great, vast, valley of the shadow of death in which there are many dead sinners and He says, "*Can they live, can they that are spiritually dead, live?*" Lord You know! Well, "*Preach to them and command them to hear the Word of the Lord.*" Tell them what I can do and what I will do, tell them. That's why I preach the gospel, I'm commanded to. If God is pleased to awaken the dead, and give men life, I will rejoice.

If God is not pleased as in the days of Noah, (he was a preacher of righteousness), he preached 120 years and never had a convert (outside his family), but he didn't quit preaching. You see, we preach, and if I preach, I have nothing to glory of. "*Necessity is laid upon me.*" He told me to. He said, "*Preach the gospel, preach the Word; be instant in season and out of season.*" There's no season for preaching the gospel, it's all the time. I know there's a time to plant and a time to reap and a time to sow and to do whatever you have to do, but the time to preach the gospel is all the time, in season and out of season.

**Secondly**, let's move on. Why do we preach the gospel? We preach the gospel because the gospel glorifies God. Now remember that! I preach the gospel because He commanded me to. Secondly, "Well preacher, you preach the gospel to save sinners don't you?" Yes, but I preach it first to glorify God, if He's not satisfied to save anybody, I'm still going to preach it, because it glorifies God." In **First Timothy 1:11**, Paul calls it the, "*Gospel of God's glory.*" Read that scripture. "*The glorious gospel of God our Saviour,*" it's the gospel of the glory of God our Savior. That's what our Lord prayed before He went to the cross, "*Glorify thy Son that thy Son may glorify thee.*" Now, that's what I pray when I stand here through these 20 years, preaching to you, "*God glorify your name, come magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt His name together.*" In **Second Corinthians, 4:6**, Paul says this, "*If our gospel be hid, it's hid to them that are lost. In whom the god of this world hath blinded their minds unless the glorious light of the gospel of God should shine unto them. But God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts to give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus.*" This gospel is the gospel of His glory. This gospel glorifies God. This gospel exalts His name. The greatest glory of God is His mercy, His grace to sinners.

The average person, now listen to me; pull up your chair and listen to me, the average person thinks that God's greatest glory is creating the world. God's greatest glory is in holding space and planets, the sun, moon and stars together. People think that God's greatest glory is raising up empires, that God's greatest glory, is perhaps, raising up a sick person. Well, "*The heavens declare the glory of God, the firmament showeth His handywork,*" but the greater glory of God is His mercy, His grace, and His redemption through Christ; that's the greater glory. "*God hath commanded the light to shine out of darkness,*" that's glorious but He in the same way, "*Has shined in our hearts to give us the knowledge of His glory.*" Where is God's glory? "*It's in the face of Jesus Christ.*" Christ is crucified, Christ is risen, Christ is our Intercessor, Christ is our Mediator; that's the glory of God! Have you seen Him? If you haven't, you haven't seen the glory of God.

Why preacher, I have seen the Son, I know the heavens declare a measure of God's glory, *"But the glory of God is seen in the face of Jesus Christ,"* Jesus the Savior, Christ the Redeemer, and Christ the God-man. That's where you see God's glory.

Moses prayed in **Exodus 33**, he said, *"God, show me your glory."* Moses had seen all these miracles of Egypt: the dividing of the sea, the smiting of the rock, the feeding with manna; he had seen all of those things and here he is asking God to show him His glory. God said, "All right, get behind the rock, get in the cleft, I'll put my hand over you. I'm going to pass by you; I'm going to show you my glory. My glory is My goodness." Read it, **Exodus 33:18 and 19**: *"My glory is my goodness, I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful; I will be gracious unto whom I will be gracious."* That's my glory! That's right!

You see, the cross reveals the Holiness of God. *"God spared not His own Son."* That's how Holy God is! He'll crucify Christ, His Son, bearing our sin. That's where you see the Holiness of God. You don't see the Holiness of God in the law, maybe some of it. You don't see the Holiness of God in rules and regulations; some of it, but the Holiness of God is when the Judge of the earth will kill His Son, because He bares sin. That's how Holy He is.

You're not that holy. You'll put someone else's boy in jail, but not yours. That's right! You would put that boy, down the street in jail, but you wouldn't put your son in jail. You would write to the judge, you would write to the mayor and you would write to the governor and everybody, this side of heaven to keep him out of prison, because, you're not holy, but God is.

The cross shows the Holiness of God. The cross reveals the wisdom of God. Only God could have come up with this way of salvation. The cross reveals the justice of God. The cross reveals the love of God. Nowhere is the love of God seen like Calvary, *"God so loved the world that He gave His Son."* The cross reveals the mercy of God. The cross reveals the power of God. The reason our Lord was crucified is because it is called *"The power and wisdom of God,"*(it's because there at that cross), *"mercy and truth met together, righteous and peace kissed each other at the cross."* That's why we preach the gospel, it's the glory of God.

All right, the **third** reason: We preach the gospel because by the preaching of the gospel, the elect of God; God has an elect; the Bible says that over and over again. By the preaching of the gospel, the elect of God hear the gospel and they believe and they are saved. That's how they hear the word of God. That's how they hear the promises of God. That's how they hear the grace of God; they hear.

Listen to these scriptures, **John 5:24**, *"Verily I say unto you, he that heareth my Word and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life."* What does he do? He hears; he hears my Word. He says in **Ephesians 1:13**, *"In whom you trusted, after you heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation."* In **Romans Chapter 10:13-17** it says, *"Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed, and how shall they believe in Him of whom they not heard, and how shall they*

*hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach, unless they have been sent?" "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." That's how the elect are saved; they hear the gospel. They see Christ in the Word. They hear and they see and they believe.*

**James 1:18:** listen, *"Of His own will, begat He us with the Word of truth."* The Word is the seed. In the begetting or conception of life, there has to be a seed. You don't have corn without a seed. You don't an apple tree without a seed. You don't have your flowers without a seed. Nothing grows without a seed. It doesn't just grow. You don't stand back and say, "I want an apple tree; you plant a seed." Children are born because a seed is planted. Listen to **First Peter 1:23:** *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed,"* it's not an apple seed or a mustard seed or a flower seed or an acorn. *"We're born again, not of corruptible seed, but of an incorruptible seed, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever."* When the Spirit of God comes, we'll be born of the Spirit of God and the Word of God, and when the Spirit of God comes with the Word, life is begotten!

**Psalms 115,** they said, *"David where's your God?"* He said, *"He's in the heavens."* They said, *"What's He like?"* He said, *"Our God is in the heavens and our God hath done whatsoever He pleased. Whatever the Lord pleased, that did He in heaven, earth and in the seas and in all deep places."* Well, what has it pleased your God to do? Well, He tells us in **First Samuel 12:** it says, *"It pleased God to make you His people."* You didn't choose Him, He chose you. You didn't love Him; He loved you. It pleased Him to make you His people. Secondly, *"It pleased God that in Christ, should all fullness dwell."* He put everything in the hands of Christ. Everything pertaining to life and godliness is in the hands of Christ.

**Isaiah 53:10,** *"Then it pleased God to bruise Him."* God sent Him to a tree and bruised Him. *"He was smitten of God, stricken and afflicted, but He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities."* It pleased God to bruise Him. *"It pleased God to reveal His Son in you and me,"* **Galatians 1:15.**

Look at **Corinthians 1:21,** when Paul said, *"He didn't send me to baptize, He sent me to preach the gospel."* He went on and said this, *"Because it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."*

That's why I preach! That's exactly right! Why do I preach the gospel of God? God commands me to. Why do I preach the gospel? Because, *"The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, it's the glory of God and the power of God."*

He said in **2 Thessalonians. 2: 13,** *"I am bound to give thanks to God for you always, brethren, beloved of the Lord, for God hath from the beginning, chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth, wherein He called you by our gospel."* That Ethiopian eunuch heard the gospel. Phillip preached it to him.

Now, here's the **fourth** reason. By the preaching of the gospel the people of God have assurance. Every time a child of God hears this gospel, God blesses it to his heart. You see; the word is our green pastures, it's our still waters. It's our table that He has prepared before us. When we hear this message, it gives us assurance and confidence and growth.

*“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” “As newborn babes, (God’s babes), desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby.”* You know, that little baby that is born in your home, I recently was in a meeting and a lady had had twins. They were nine days old and she brought them to church. They were so frail, fragile and tiny, but when I go back there in a year, it will be a whole new ballgame. They’ll be fat, saucy and sassy. Do you know why? (Milk)! They will have milk and plenty of it, momma’s milk. *“As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow.”*

Preacher, why don’t I grow in faith? You’re neglecting the food, the Word of God. Why am I so discouraged and filled with anxiety and trouble? It’s because you’re staying away from the green pasture. You’re hungry, and suffering from malnutrition; you’re not studying the Word of God. You grow by the Word of God. Comfort comes by the scriptures, *“comfort one another with these words.”* Every grace of God comes from the Word and the growth of that Grace is through the Word.

These religious fellows came around our Lord and they said, *“If you be the Christ, tell us plainly, He said, I told you, but you didn’t believe me. My sheep hear my voice and they follow me and I give them eternal life and they’ll never perish,”* they never will. That’s why we preach the gospel. God commands us to. It’s the gospel of His glory. It’s the gospel by which they grow.

Last of all, because it’s the only true gospel. There’s but one gospel. Let me read those words again, from **Galatians 1**, strong words, but I do believe them, *“But though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”* As I said before, so say I now again, *“If any man preach any other gospel than you have received, let Him be accursed.”* Paul said that our gospel is the only gospel, there is no other.

Why did he believe that? Can I close with this? I believe that our gospel is the only gospel.

**First**, because it is true to the scriptures, according to the Word of God. Our gospel is according to the scriptures.

**Secondly**, I believe it’s the only gospel, because it gives God all the glory.

**Thirdly**, it enables God to be just and justifier. That’s right!

**Fourthly**, it will save the chief of sinners. (No merit, no works, Grace). It will keep him saved and give him a perfect holiness and standing before God and it’s the power of God that will take Him to glory. That’s what this gospel will do, and that’s why we preach the gospel.

