

In Trust with the Gospel

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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

1 Thessalonians 2:1-4

1 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

3 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

4 But as we were **allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel**, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Like the apostle Paul and the other apostles and disciples, especially the pastors...we, Lighthouse, have been allowed of God to be put *in trust with the Gospel*.

Of all the things about us that Satan hates, our faithfully preaching the Gospel is, without doubt, what he hates the most.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how 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:

The incredibly good news that Christ has died for our sins, was buried for three days and three nights and now has risen in victory over death, sin, hell and the grave; this is the Gospel!

Just as each of us who are saved have entrusted the forgiveness of our sins and the eternal keeping of our souls to this one Who died and rose again; God has entrusted us with this incredible message of life and power.

As a matter of fact, that phrase, "put in trust with" is the very definition of "believe", The Greek word being "pisteuo" in both cases.

The fact that God would entrust us with carrying forth this greatest of all messages is both a truly great privilege and a grave responsibility.

I speak this morning to us as a Church and especially to our pastors, teachers and leaders. We shall give an account as to how we handle this great power with which we have been entrusted.

Just as the Lord did with the apostle Paul, God is going to try our hearts. Not so as He will know our level of commitment to the gospel, but that we ourselves might know it.

There is one thing that is consistent where the Gospel is preached; there will be contention. Because Satan hates it so much, the gospel will always bring trouble.

Our commitment to this message must be genuine if we are going to stay standing when trouble comes.

Because of the Gospel, Paul was shamefully entreated at Philippi: why would we expect but that we will be as well?

Satan is going to use enemies from his every resource to stop the Gospel; including our very own government which will be coming for us, no doubt, very soon.

Old Pastor Turk gave me some wisdom I hope to pass on to our preachers here today; he said, “no matter what else you may preach, make sure you always include the Gospel”.

There are some rules and instructions when it comes to the handling of the Gospel; rules and instructions we each should know and understand.

Some of them govern:

I. The Presentation.

A. We are to speak the Gospel with boldness.

1. **I Thessalonians 2:2** But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

2. We are not to be shy about the message of the Gospel.

3. **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

4. The gospel isn't just the power of God unto salvation, it is the ONLY power of God unto salvation!

5. It is not the Gospel AND being a good person!

6. It is not the Gospel AND your good works or your keeping of the law!

7. It is placing your trust; all 100% of it in Jesus' work on the cross to save you from your sins.

B. To proclaim the Gospel with boldness will create contention.

1. This cannot be avoided.

2. We must be ready and willing to deal with it.

3. There is always going to be someone who disagrees with the Gospel; or whether works or

the law or baptism or some other act on our part has anything to do with true salvation.

4. It can be very easy just avoid the controversy that comes with standing for this truth.

5. Paul did not back down from the controversy!

Galatians 2:4-5

4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

6. We must be willing to boldly defend the Gospel!

II. The Purpose.

A. Our purpose in proclaiming the Gospel is to please God.

1. **1 Thessalonians 2:4** But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

2. Pleasing God means that, with the exception of other believers whose purpose is also to please God, we will not please men.

3. **1 Thessalonians 2:5** For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness:

4. Even though there were those who were more influential or perhaps wealthier; Paul did not use flattering words.

5. Paul did not seek the wealth or the favor of the wealthy; he did not covet what others in the Church may have nor did he cater to their opinions.

6. The Gospel is to be preached and taught without respect of persons.

7. **James 2:1** My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

B. There is one particular problem that plagues many of God's servants.

1. Especially today, what seems to be one of the biggest detriments to our purpose is stated in verse 6.

2. **1 Thessalonians 2:6** Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others...

3. Have you noticed that from those mega-church leaders and those whose ministries are in their own name, you rarely if ever hear any mention of the Gospel?

4. The Gospel is **the power of God unto salvation!**

5. Yes, we may preach the message, but when it comes to saving sinners, Jesus gets ALL the glory.

6. The bottom line is that we can seek to be famous or we can be faithful to the Gospel and seek to make Jesus famous.

III. The Passion.

A. *How passionate are you about the Gospel?*

1. Listen to the heart of the apostle Paul as he yearns for those God is bringing to Himself:

2. **1 Thessalonians 2:7-11**

7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

10 Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,

3. We must passionately love the Lord and we must passionately love God's people!

4. We can be passionate about a lot of things; sports, politics, vocation, family; all good things.

5. Where's your passion for the best thing of all; the only thing that will keep people out of hell?

6. Might we be passionate about what really counts!

B. *Your passion for the Gospel can be seen, it will motivate your behavior.*

1. Will you faithfully preach the Gospel whether you get paid or not?

2. **1 Thessalonians 2:9** For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

3. You may not get a pat on the back.

4. You may not have a title.

5. Your passion for the Gospel will be in direct proportion to your love for Jesus and your love

for lost souls.

6. Will you remain passionate about the Gospel regardless of what others may say?

Conclusion:

When the contention arises, those who stand for the Gospel will be accused of many things.

“He’s just doing it for the money.”

“He just wants to be the king of his own little kingdom.”

Just remember, most of those who accuse do so not because they have some legitimate evidence of your failure; most accuse God’s servants because it is what they would do if they were in your place.

Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

We have a lot to learn and much to teach, but nothing more important than the Gospel.

The age we are entering is going to be dangerous and scary; may we stand regardless!