

**Subject: *The Glorious Gospel of Christ***

**Scripture: *Galatians 1:1-9***

In 1517 the Christian faith experienced what is now called the Reformation. Truth had been buried beneath the traditions and false teachings of the Roman Catholic Church for centuries, and it was time to stand up for the truth of the gospel. Here we are 500 years later and we find ourselves living in an age of darkness and deception. We used to assume that everybody understood what it meant to be a Christian, but now we have to identify ourselves as a born again Christian or evangelical Christian. People do not understand basic Biblical terms like repentance and faith and salvation. The word “gospel” also needs to be defined. Gospel is at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus told the apostles to go and preach the gospel to every person. Paul said he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. We can no longer assume that everyone knows what the gospel is. What is the gospel and why is it so important?

### **1. We must define the gospel**

- It is the gospel of God

The gospel reveals the one true God who is both righteous and loving. It is the good news that this holy God has made a way for sinners to be right with Him. **1 Timothy 2:5** *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

- It is the gospel of Christ

It was brought by Christ and belongs to Christ. Without Him there is no gospel. The gospel is not a set of rules or principles to live by. It is eternal life and salvation through Christ. **1 Timothy 1:15** *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.* The gospel was not discovered by man, but it was revealed by Christ. **Galatians 1:11-12** <sup>11</sup> *But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.* <sup>12</sup> *For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

- It is the gospel of grace

**Galatians 1:6** *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.*

**Ephesians 2:8-10** <sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* <sup>9</sup> *Not of works, lest any man should boast.* <sup>10</sup> *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

- It is the worldwide gospel

It is a worldwide gospel, a message without boundaries. **Titus 2:11** *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.* **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.*

- It is the truth that Christ died, was buried, and rose from the dead

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4** <sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; <sup>2</sup> By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; <sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

- It is the truth that Christ saves us from our sins

The bad news of sin makes the good news really good news. Jesus saves us from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and the presence of sin.

**Galatians 1:4** Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

## **2. We must defend the gospel**

- We must be ready to defend it

Paul said he was set for the defense of the gospel (Phil. 1:17).

- We must call out and condemn any other gospel

This is exactly what Paul did in Galatians 1:6-9. The word “another” means another of a different kind. There are many false gospels, but there is only one true gospel. What are some other kinds of gospels?

- The superficial gospel – says that man doesn’t need a birth from above, but a boost from below. People need a better life instead of a new heart. The worst form of badness is human goodness when it is a substitute for the new birth.
- The social gospel – says that people mainly need help with their physical problems; it is enough to feed the hungry and help the needy. The problem is that people need more than soup and soap; they need salvation. The social gospel is a perversion of the true Gospel because it deals only with the problem of suffering and not with the greater problem of sin.
- The success gospel – says that the purpose of Christ is to make life better; every believer should be healthy & wealthy; this is the gospel of name it and claim it theology.
- The synthetic gospel – a mixture of law and grace; trust Christ and do your best; obey the golden rule and the ten commandments; in some cases the gospel of Christ is mixed with the teachings of cult leaders or other religions; the teaching of the Roman Catholic church is a synthetic gospel (Christ and the sacraments of the church; the Bible and church tradition)
- The seeker-sensitive gospel – tells people what they want to hear and gives them what they want instead of what they need; doesn’t mention sin or judgment or hell because that turns people off; this false teaching is based on a misunderstanding of what Paul said in ***1 Corinthians 9:20-22*** And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain

*the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.* Paul doesn't say "I have made the Gospel to be all things to all people." He doesn't say "I have made the church to be all things to all people." Paul is not talking about the message, but the methods of evangelism.

- The self-help gospel – some teach that Christ gets you off to a good start, but you can lose your salvation if you're not careful; it is based on a wrong idea of sin, the work of Christ, and the nature of salvation

### **3. We must declare the gospel**

- We must preach the gospel

**Mark 16:15** *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* We must not assume that everybody has heard a clear presentation of the gospel. We have this treasure in earthen vessels. **1 Corinthians 9:16** *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!*

- We must share the gospel in other ways

We can share the gospel one on one in personal evangelism, hand out tracts and packets, send emails and letters, and even use our smart phones (Way of the Master app).

The gospel is a message to be proclaimed. It is an invitation to be given. It is a command to be obeyed. The message, the invitation, and the command are all about Christ. He did for us what no one else could do. That's why we give our life to Him.