

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Among professed Christians and church-bodies, the term “gospel” is frequently used, and yet not always in the Biblically correct way in proper reference to the good news of Jesus Christ and His atoning work. However, the misuse of the term “gospel” is not merely a recent occurrence, for the Apostle Paul around 50 or 60 A.D. wrote in Galatians 1:6-12 to the early Christians in the region of Galatia: “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.” Hence, there is the genuine Gospel of Christ that the Apostle Paul preached, and there are other gospels which are perversions of it and are to be rejected.

Therefore, our sermon text can be of benefit to us as it provides us with accurate information concerning:

**“THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST”**

With that as our theme may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) What the Gospel of Christ is
- 2) What the Gospel of Christ does
- 3) Why the Gospel of Christ is vital

Verse 16, ----- (Romans 1:16)

The words of our text were first addressed to Christians in Rome. Now consider the fact that crucifixion was the Roman method of executing the worst criminals, and it was a Roman governor named Pontius Pilate who, at the urging of Jewish high-churchmen and their followers, sentenced Christ to be crucified. Nevertheless, the Roman governor knew Jesus Christ was completely innocent of any and all wrong-doing, for Luke 23:4 reports that at Jesus’ trial: “Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.”

Therefore, the Apostle Paul boldly wrote to the believers in Jesus at Rome: *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.*

The term “gospel” means “good news, glad tidings, and joyful message.” Note well that the GOSPEL of which Paul was NOT ashamed IS THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST— the good news of Jesus Christ.

Paul certainly knew who Christ is, for we read in Romans 1:1-4, “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

Thus, the Gospel of Christ is also the Gospel of God, the good news that God the Father sent His only begotten Son into the world, His eternal Son who took upon Himself a real human nature in the womb of the Virgin Mary, Christ being there conceived by the Holy Ghost. Hence, Jesus is true God and true man but one Christ, the one true Savior of the world, for John 3:16 informs us: “God

so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jesus Christ lived the perfect life that none of us have lived or can live; then, Jesus Christ willingly died by crucifixion where on the cross of Calvary He shed His holy and precious blood to pay for all the sins of all people; and then, Jesus was buried and three days later triumphantly, bodily rose from the dead.

Holy Scripture plainly states the facts, for Luke 1:26-35 reports: "...the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Thus, Jesus the Savior is the Christ, true God and true man.

In reference to Jesus the Son of God, Hebrews 4:15 declares: "we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Therefore, Jesus indeed kept God's Law perfectly for us!

Jesus Christ willingly gave Himself into death for our sins, and then bodily rose again after three days in the tomb, for before it all took place He

stated in John 10:17-18, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." Additionally, Romans 4:25 reveals that Jesus our Lord is He, "Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

Accordingly, Jesus Christ is our crucified and risen Savior and Lord who has paid for our sins in full with His own holy and precious blood, for Holy Writ reports: "the blood of Jesus Christ [God's] Son cleanseth us from all sin. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." (1 John 1:7; Romans 8:3-4; 3:23-26)

My friends, the afore-quoted Bible verses prove to us that the Gospel of Christ is truly good news, glad tidings, and a joyful message to all of us since we are all sinners, and Romans 6:23 plainly states: "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." No wonder the Apostle Paul declared in the opening verse of our text: *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.*

Note well that the Gospel of Christ IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH; TO THE JEW FIRST, AND ALSO TO THE GREEK. Yes, Jesus paid for all the sins of all people,

whether Jew or Gentile, for Jesus is the Savior of the whole world, which is wonderful news.

So, let us never forget that the Gospel of Christ is the good news, the glad tidings, the joyful message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and, it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes.

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As we continue to ponder our text, let us see what the Gospel of Christ does.

Verses 16 & 17, ----- (Romans 1:16-17)

What the Gospel of Christ does is evident when we think about the fact that the Gospel of Christ *is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.* Yes, the Gospel of Christ is power-packed in that God works in and through that Word to gift people with faith in Jesus Christ— the very faith which receives the forgiveness of sins and salvation that Jesus Christ earned for the whole world!

Indeed, EVERYONE who believes on Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior and Lord does so by the power of God working in and through the Gospel, for Romans 10:17 tells us: “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” And, Ephesians 2:8-10 declares: “by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Yes, good works flow from genuine God-given faith in Jesus Christ as they are fruits of faith. Works that are truly good in God’s sight do not and cannot precede sincere faith in Jesus Christ, nor can one’s own works justify man in whole or in part, for Hebrews 11:6 informs us: “without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a

rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Hence, it’s as Romans 3:28 clearly states:

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” And our text says: *as it is written, The just shall live by faith;* for, Habakkuk 2:4 does say: “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.” So, a person is indeed justified by God-given faith, thereby receiving and possessing, as Romans 3:22 reports, “the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.” Accordingly, take it to heart that the Gospel of Christ offers and transmits the salvation won by Jesus Christ for the whole world to the individual sinner so that he or she can personally benefit from Jesus’ redemptive work, for John 3:36 declares: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” Let us be ever grateful for the Gospel of Christ and all that God works in and through it, *for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

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As we ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see why the Gospel of Christ is vital.

Verses 18 & 19, ----- (Romans 1:18-19)

With the exception of Jesus Christ who is true man and true God, all human beings are by nature ungodly and unrighteous, for Galatians 3:22 clearly states: “the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.” Yeah, every naturally conceived human being is a sinner! Nevertheless, people often brag and boast that they are basically good and do many good things; and yet, Isaiah 64:6 plainly reveals: “we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;

and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Think about it. Even our very best works are in themselves utter filth, sinful and unclean, in the sight of the high and holy God. Accordingly, the Gospel of Christ is vital because it is the means by which God turns sinners into saints, unbelievers into believers.

God is holy, God is just, and therefore He demands perfect righteousness if one would enter heaven when one departs this life, "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe." (Romans 3:22) Thus, the Gospel of Christ is vital, *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.*

Realize that when sinners spurn the Savior and the joyous message of Him and what He has done, it angers God since such people *hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.* There is a natural knowledge of God, for people have a conscience which tells them that a superior power has made them— that there is a God, someone greater than themselves, for Romans 2:14-15 relates: "when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." Furthermore, God's revealed knowledge is available worldwide in the Holy Scriptures given by inspiration of God. The Holy Bible supplies 100% reliable information as to who the true God is, what He has done, and what He still does. But sadly, sinful rebellious people hold God's truth in unrighteousness as they mock Him and His Holy Word. And then, people wonder why there are so many plagues on the earth, while Galatians 6:7 plainly says: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Verses 20 & 21, -----. (Romans 1:20-21)

Note well that creation itself testifies to the fact that there is a God who is above all, *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

The invisible things of God are seen by their effects. For example, think about wind. Jesus says in John 3:8, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth." Yes, we cannot see the wind itself but we can see what it moves and we can hear it blow. Also, magnetism and electricity are invisible to our eyes, and yet their effects can be seen. But think about the SOURCE of the wind, magnetism, electricity, and the power that holds atoms together forming molecules and so forth: these things do NOT simply exist of themselves, for it is the LORD GOD who holds the things He created together and keeps them functioning. Yes, it's as we read concerning the Lord Jesus Christ in Colossians 1:17, "he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

Man in stubborn rebellious sin and unbelief goes against his conscience and the Word of God when he embraces ridiculous things such as the theory of evolution, and then goes so far these days as to widely teach it as if it were fact. Self-serving rebellious sinners believe they descended from monkeys; so, they act like animals and don't even behave as well as the monkeys. Nevertheless, Psalm 33:6 clearly states: "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." And, Hebrews 11:3 declares to us who by God's grace are Christians: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Thus, the Gospel of Christ is

vital because it is the means by which God gifts folks with faith in Jesus and keeps them in the same— faith which rejects the foolish notions of the sinful heart.

Oh beloved, when sinners rebel against God against better knowledge and are not thankful for all the good things He has done and still does, they end up holding to man's "profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called." (1 Timothy 6:20) TRUE SCIENCE always agrees with Holy Scripture while man's science falsely so-called does not. Unfortunately, we often hear man's false science regularly praised as sinful human beings fail to repent and their hearts grow increasingly darkened with more sin. So, I repeat: the Gospel of Christ is vital.

Verses 22-25, ----- (Romans 1:22-25)

My friends, the Gospel of Christ is vital because Jesus is the only Way to God and heaven, for Acts 4:12 informs us: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." The Gospel of Christ is vital since sinners harden themselves more and more against God, for *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

Think about how foolish it is that people have worshiped and do worship images in the forms of statues, carvings, and paintings of people and various animals, fish, reptiles, birds, and insects. Millions bow down to images, while they hold themselves to be enlightened people with highly developed brains. Psalm 115:5-8 rightly describes the situation regarding such idols and those who worship them: "They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them

are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them."

When God beheld sinful human beings in their foolish deliberate idolatry, He *also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.*

Yeah, when various forms of idolatry are practiced against better knowledge, God subsequently gives such people up to further sin, sexual sins and perversion in particular, for such people are they *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

Looking around at modern society we can see common idolatry and its fruit in all sorts of sexual sins and perversion. Sports heroes are idolized, man's science falsely-so-called is idolized, and people idolize themselves; consequently, we see a continual rise in sexual perversion with homosexuality and lesbianism being praised, condoned, and encouraged by people who hold such sinful conduct to be acceptable alternative lifestyles.

Hence, the Gospel of Christ is vital because it is the means by which God transforms sinners into saints as He gifts folks with faith in Jesus who is the only Savior!

Let us therefore daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us cling to Jesus Christ in heart-deep faith as our personal Savior and Lord; and, let us regularly confess from a grateful heart as did the Apostle Paul: *I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.* Yes, let us highly value the Gospel of Christ since Jesus alone is our Deliverer from never-ending doom. Amen.

m.e.l.