

THE GOSPEL IS PEACE!

The word "gospel" means "glad tidings or good news." One of the finest statements regarding the gospel is found in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. He reminded them, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" (I Corinthians 15:1-4). Simply put, the gospel is the good news about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. How is that good news? Because of the results that have come to us due to His death.

We have salvation. Paul told Timothy, "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (II Timothy 2:10). This is the only place salvation is to be found. Hear Peter, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Having salvation means we are free. The very essence of what Paul was trying to teach in Romans chapter six is this: obedience to the gospel "pattern" (Romans 6:17,18) is what Jesus meant when He said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Such freedom brings to the new servant of Christ (a wondrous paradox) peace. Paul told us what kind of peace this is: "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). And no wonder, seeing that "he is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). Thus, the cross, salvation, the freedom from sin and the resulting peace comprise the cycle that revolves around our Lord and Master. Such peace we have not only because we are free from sin, but also because now we have been reconciled to God and we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:18,20; Romans 5:1).

The gospel is peace. Let us continue to live in such a way that we may by our example and by our speech bring this peace to others by means of their obedience to the gospel.

A Brief But Detailed Study Of Acts 8.12

Acts 8:12—But when they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

This can be viewed as a four point outline.

1. Philip preached the Gospel. The Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. One must learn about sin and how to have it taken away.
2. That preaching included instructions regarding the kingdom, which is the church. A vital part of the Gospel is the fact that when Jesus died for sins, His blood purchased the church. He did not purchase denominations, but the church, which is His body, of which there is but ONE!
3. That instruction also included the name of Christ, what a Christian is. When a person learns about Christ and His church, he will also learn that to be a follower, he will be a Christian, not a Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Mormon, or Disciple of Christ-Christian, or Church-Church of Christ. I use these last three terms in a denominational sense...as so many do. This is the wrong way to look at one who wants to follow Jesus. That one is a Christian. It is the name which glorifies God (1 Peter 4.16).
4. Finally, that preaching included God's plan for salvation and how one attains it. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is accomplished, or is followed by our being baptized into Christ, that is to say, into His death (Romans 6.1-11).

Conclusion:

One cannot be taught error and be baptized and be considered by God nor man to be part of God's eternal purpose, the church. One cannot obey error and be added by the Lord to the church.

Sermon Notes:
“Those Who Say And Do Not!”

Jesus gets pretty plain in His speech regarding the Pharisees and scribes of His day. He pulls no punches and calls them what they are: **hypocrites!**

- Such hypocrisy lead them to desolation!
- Their hypocrisy was seen in: _____, _____,
_____, _____.
- Their desolation is best described as _____ in all aspects of their lives and religion.
- Their sins and hypocrisy are cited in these verses...
- 13: _____;
- 14: false concern for the _____;
- 15: making men their personal _____;
- 16-22: empty oaths and _____ in them;
- 23,24: _____ and _____: they missed the point!
- 25,26: false _____;
- 27,28: they were nothing but _____ men!
- 29-36: false _____ and _____ to the past.

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Evening: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.

Preachers:

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Wednesday's Wisdom:

“Of all things we can rejoice in...rejoice in fact that your name is written in Heaven!” Josh Haley

Fellowship Meal Today...please stay and eat with us.

Men's Business Meeting...directly after our noon meal (12:30 pm).

Sermon Preview:

- Religion gets a “bad name” by those who abuse and make a play or show of it.
- The scribes and Pharisees of the first century did that very thing.
- They made it very difficult for one to be a true servant of God..
- And nearly impossible for one to become a disciple of Christ.
- Jesus lines out their errors and calls them what they are: *hypocrites!*