

THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD

These words are part of what Paul said to the elders of Ephesus as recorded in Acts 20:24. Grammatically, we could refer to this gospel as "God's gracious gospel." Indeed, that is the subject of this article. The "gospel" is God's good news or good message or glad tidings regarding the fact that since Christ died for our sins, we need not die (spiritually) and be separated from God any longer. This **is** good news!

Let us consider a "Pleasing Plate of P's" that describe this gracious gospel. First, the gospel was **Perceived** in the mind of God. The apostle Peter tells us of Christ, "who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was manifested at the end of times for your sake" (1 Peter 1:20). John writes to persecuted Christians to take heart, knowing that Jesus is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). Paul confirms that the gospel was in the mind of God before men were ever created. He told the Roman brethren, "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith" (Romans 16:26).

Second, the gospel is the **Purchase** made by the blood of Christ. Paul spoke of the church of the Lord as that "which he purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). He reminds us that "ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Third, the gospel was **Pronounced** by the breath of the Holy Spirit. At least twice Peter speaks of this in his two epistles (I Peter 1:12; II Peter 1:21). Paul also refers to his and other inspired preachers' messages as "things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual *words*" (1 Corinthians 2:13).

Fourth, the gospel **Provides Power** for all to be saved. This is the watch-word of the book of Romans: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

Finally, the gospel **Produces Hope** for men. We sing the song "We Have An Anchor" which itself is anchored within Scripture. We find the basis for this song in the book of Hebrews, "that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us: which we have as an anchor of the soul, *a hope* both sure and stedfast and entering into that which is within the veil" (Hebrews 6:18-19). Obviously we must search for this hope within the Bible, even as Paul demonstrates by saying, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

The gospel of God is indeed glorious. By clinging to it and obeying it we can know and have assurance that we will be saved and go to Heaven. That is why John wrote what he did: "These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, *even* unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13). Thus, the gospel must be **Preached!** As Paul said, so do I and every faithful preacher: "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of; for necessity is laid upon me; for woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Let us all have the attitude of Paul who said, "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15)!

Sermon Notes:
“Go, Stand, and Speak!”

- To go, we must be _____.
- To be ready, we must _____ to show ourselves approved.
- Far too many simply are ignorant of God’s word.
- We must take a firm _____.
- Then we must not fear to _____ up for what is true and right.
- “I don’t know what to say” ought never enter our mouths!
- We must speak the whole truth to all who listen.
- The message is not of “feelings” and “opinions,” but the _____ of God.
- This message is the most important lesson for _____.
- It is our task to seek and save...for in this we are obeying what Peter said, “We must _____ God and not men!”

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:

“It is one thing to know God, but vital to be known by God!” Zach Haley

It is good to have sister Lee Hall back with us again.

A few have been ill this past week. We hope they are recovered. Pray for others you may know who are ailing.

Sermon Preview:

- Despite fierce opposition by the Jewish leadership, the apostles preached the Word!
- When threatened they preached; when released from prison, they continued to preach and teach Jesus as the Christ.
- When we teach and preach, the message must be the Truth, the Whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth.
- We must teach ALL the Truth to ALL who will listen.