

# IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOSPEL

**Intro:** As a basis for our study turn to 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 “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:” The context of 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 shows the importance of the Gospel.

Paul has just discussed (most detailed discussion of) spiritual (miraculous) gifts in 1 Cor. 12-14. In chapter 12 Paul enumerates these gifts (1—Word of wisdom; 2—word of knowledge; 3—faith; 4—gifts of healing; 5—working of miracles; 6—prophecy; 7—discerning of spirits; 8—tongues; 9—interpretation of tongues.) He then discusses the duration of these gifts in chapter 13. And in chapter 14 he discusses the proper use of the gifts.

But now the Corinthians are reminded that they were saved by the Gospel, not by spiritual gifts. Thus in this lesson I want us to see the implications of the Gospel, for this will cause us to have a deeper appreciation for God and the Gospel. The Gospel is still God’s power to save; 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.” 1 Cor. 1:17-18 “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. <sup>18</sup>For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

## I. THE GOSPEL IMPLIES GOD’S FOREKNOWLEDGE.

### A. Things have changed since the First century.

1. We live in a world of change.
  - a. Means of transportation change.
  - b. Methods of agriculture change.
  - c. Methods of communication have changed.
2. This is one of the major differences between God and man.
  - a. God is immutable (unchangeable).
  - b. Man is changeable.

### B. But man’s basic needs have not changed.

1. Man still needs security, forgiveness, reconciliation to God, real purpose in life.
2. The Gospel meets these basic spiritual needs of man.
  - a. Forgiveness of sins.
    - (1) Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
    - (2) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
  - b. Reconciliation to God.
    - (1) Rom. 5:9-10 “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. <sup>10</sup>For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”
    - (2) 2 Cor. 5:18-19 “And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

- (3) Eph. 2:16-18 “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: <sup>17</sup>And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”
- (4) Col. 1:20-22 “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. <sup>21</sup>And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled <sup>22</sup>In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:”
- c. Purpose in life.
  - (1) Ecc. 12:13-14 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. <sup>14</sup>For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good or whether *it be* evil.”
  - (2) Mat. 22:37-40 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
- d. Security; Phi. 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

**C. Surely God knew how things would change from the first to the twentieth century.**

- 1. God had a foreknowledge in centuries before Christ what would transpire in the first century.
  - a. Over 300 prophecies concerning Christ in the Old Testament.
  - b. 1 Pet. 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”
- 2. God gave a gospel that still fills the needs of men.
  - a. Men must believe the Gospel.
  - b. Rom. 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.”

**II. THE GOSPEL IMPLIES THAT GOD LOVES MAN.**

**A. As seen in our text the facts of the Gospel are; the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.**

- 1. Why did Jesus die?
  - a. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
  - b. Song by J. G. Dailey

Why did my Savior come to earth, and to the humble go? Why did he choose a lowly birth? Because He loved me so!

Why did he drink the bitter cup, of sorrow, pain, and woe? Why on the cross be lifted up? Because He loved me so!

He loved me so, He loved me so; He gave His precious life for me, for me, because He loved me so.

- 2. God’s love was a giving love.

**B. God commended His love toward us.**

- 1. John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
- 2. Rom. 5:6-10 “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

<sup>8</sup>But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. <sup>10</sup>For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”

### III. THE GOSPEL IMPLIES THAT MAN IS INCAPABLE OF SAVING HIMSELF.

#### A. Contemporary man often emphasizes humanity.

1. “Glory to man in the highest.”
2. Humanism.
  - a. Humanist Manifesto II says:
    - (1) “As nontheist, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity.”
    - (2) “But we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.”
  - b. Humanism is as old as man; Gen. 3:5 “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

#### B. Man cannot save himself by:

1. Intellect
2. Political power
3. Social standing
4. Educational attainments
5. Material things.
6. Moral goodness.

#### C. Man needs God’s grace.

1. Eph. 2:8-9 “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.”
2. Tit. 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

### IV. THE GOSPEL IMPLIES THAT MAN HAS THE ABILITY TO RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL.

#### A. The Gospel places confidence in man.

#### B. Sin does not make man incapable of responding.

1. Some are not moved by the Gospel.
  - a. 1 Cor. 1:20-24 “Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup>For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. <sup>22</sup>For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: <sup>23</sup>But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; <sup>24</sup>But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”
  - b. Mat. 7:13 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.”
2. Others are moved by the Gospel.
  - a. Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”
  - b. Mat. 7:14 “Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

3. Acts 13:46-48 “Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup>For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. <sup>48</sup>And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”
4. Why are some moved and others are not? (see the parable of the sower).
  - a. Mat. 13
  - b. Luke 8
  - c. The difference is the soil (the heart) and not the seed (the Gospel).

## V. THE GOSPEL IMPLIES THAT GOD USES MAN IN SAVING MAN.

### A. Jesus commanded His disciples to go and preach the Gospel.

1. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
2. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
3. 1 Cor. 1:17-18, 21 “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. <sup>18</sup>For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.... <sup>21</sup>For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

### B. Why would the Lord use men in saving men?

1. Sin is basically selfishness — so men need to become interested in others.
2. Men saved from sin can sympathize with those still in sin, and be more zealous in attempting to save them.

Conclusion: When man rejects the gospel it nullifies God’s power (Rom. 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.”). To reject the Gospel is to invite destruction (2 The. 1:6-9 “Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; <sup>7</sup>And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, <sup>8</sup>In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>9</sup>Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”). Thus, why not obey the Gospel now?