

# The Glorious Gospel

**Intro:** Paul describes the Gospel in this way in 2 Cor. 4:4 “<sup>4</sup>In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” The Gospel is the good news which tells of the glory of Christ in Whom we can see God. It is the mighty and powerful message from God that penetrates to the deepest place of the soul. Notice how Paul describes the glory of the Gospel in Rom. 1:16 “<sup>16</sup>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.”

## I. THE ORIGIN OF THE GOSPEL

### A. “The gospel of Christ.”

**B. Paul describes this good news; 1 Cor. 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:”

### C. The resurrection distinguishes Christ from any other leader.

1. Other leaders of religious groups have lived, taught (some good moralistic teaching), and died.
2. What distinguishes Christ:
  - a. He died for our sins
  - b. He rose from the dead.
  - c. He lives as the Savior of the world; Heb. 7:25 “<sup>25</sup>Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”
3. Luke 1:68-69 “<sup>68</sup>Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, <sup>69</sup>And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;”

## II. OPERATION OF THE GOSPEL

### A. Religion and Gospel:

1. *Religion* is often considered the story of what man tries to do for a holy God.
2. The Gospel is the story of what a holy God has done for sinful man.

### B. “The power of God.”

1. This phrase is found 13 times in the New Testament.
2. 12 of the times (including here) it uses the Greek δύναμις (*dunamis*).
  - a. δύναμις (*dunamis*) is “strength, ability, power; a. inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth.”
  - b. There is no greater power than that of God as is seen in His creating the universe.
    - (1) Isa. 40:26 “<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these *things*, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that *he is* strong in power; not one faileth.”
    - (2) It is seen in His:
      - (a) Creative power
        - (i) Gen. 1:1 “<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
        - (ii) Heb. 11:3 “<sup>3</sup>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.”

- (b) Sustaining power;
  - (i) Heb. 1:3 “<sup>3</sup> Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”
  - (ii) Col. 1:17 “<sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist [held together—ESV, NASV].”
- (c) Recreative power (creating in man a new life).

### III. OUTCOME OF THE GOSPEL

#### A. “To salvation”

#### B. Man’s greatest need.

1. To restore what man lost in Eden.
  - a. Gen. 3:22-24 “<sup>22</sup> And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: <sup>23</sup> Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. <sup>24</sup> So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”
  - b. Rev. 22:14 “<sup>14</sup> Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”
2. When sin entered the world, it separated man from God.
  - a. Isa 59:2 “<sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.”
  - b. Man needed reconciling to God (a buying back).
    - (1) Gal. 4:5 “<sup>5</sup> To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”
    - (2) 1 Pet. 1:18-19 “<sup>18</sup> Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”
  - c. To redeem us, man needed forgiveness.
    - (1) Mat. 1:21 “<sup>21</sup> And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
    - (2) Luke 19:10 “<sup>10</sup> For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

### IV. THE OUTREACH OF THE GOSPEL

#### A. “To everyone who believeth”

#### B. The Gospel is for all.

1. It is not a limited atonement per the Calvinist.
2. God’s grace is for all; Tit. 2:11 “<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”
3. Christ died for all.
  - a. Heb. 2:9 “<sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
  - b. 1 John 2:2 “<sup>2</sup> And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.”

**C. This faith is a living, active, obedient faith.**

1. Rom. 1:5 <sup>45</sup> By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:"
2. Rom. 16:26 <sup>26</sup> 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:"
3. It is a faith that obeys God's plan of saving sinful man.

**V. ORDER OF THE GOSPEL.****A. "The Jew first and also to the Greek."****B. It was to begin in Jerusalem and go out from there.**

1. As was prophesied; Isa. 2:2-3 <sup>2</sup> And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. <sup>3</sup> And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."
2. Jesus set forth a progression of the spread of that salvation; Acts 1:8 <sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
3. It was preached to every creature.
  - a. Col. 1:23 <sup>23</sup> If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"
  - b. The Gospel is for all people now.

Conclusion: God's marvelous grace reaches each and every one of us. Let us never be ashamed of it, but thank God for it (2 Cor. 9:15 <sup>15</sup> Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.") and proudly proclaim it.