

THE GOSPEL AND THE WORLD

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TEXT:

"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 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. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:14-17).

Introduction:

1) Many things have changed in the world (communication, transportation, medicine, etc).

2) However, two things that never change:

- (1) The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- (2) The world's need of this Gospel.

3) Why does the world need the Gospel?

I. IT IS A SAVING GOSPEL FOR A LOST WORLD.

1) The world is lost (one doesn't have to die, go to hell, to be lost)

(1) "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10),

(2) "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (1John 5:19).

2) There is hope

(1) This hope is through the Gospel

(2) Paul wrote: 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" (Romans 1:16).

II. IT IS A POWERFUL GOSPEL FOR A HELPLESS WORLD.

1) The world is helpless to save itself apart from God,

(1) "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

(2) "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8).

2) The Gospel is God's power to save those who believe.

(1) "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" (Romans 1:16).

(2) "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. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (1Corinthians 1:21-25).

II. IT IS THE GOSPEL OF LIGHT TO A WORLD IN DARKNESS.

1) "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up" "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people" (Matthew 4:16, 23).

2) "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path", (Psalm 119:105).

3) "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 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" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

III. IT IS A GOSPEL OF DELIVERANCE FOR A WORLD THAT IS ENSLAVED IN SIN.

1) "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the

house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:32-36).

2) “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Colossians 1:13).

3) “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. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:16-18).

IV. IT IS A CHANGELESS GOSPEL FOR A CHANGING WORLD.

1) While the world changes, is there anything on which we can rely? - Is there an objective standard?

2) The Gospel is never out of date.

3) Man’s spiritual problem is the same. His problem is sin (Rom. 3:23)

4) The pure Gospel of Christ is the answer to man’s spiritual problem.

5) An accuse from God is pronounced any who would alter the Gospel

6) “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” (Galatians 1:8-9).

V. IT IS A GOSPEL OF UNITY FOR A WORLD THAT IS DIVIDED RELIGIOUSLY.

1) There is much division in the world (homes divided religiously; this is not God’s fault).

2) “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints” (1Corinthians 14:33).

3) Jesus prayed that all would be “one.” “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one”(John 17:20-22).

4) Paul wrote the church at Corinth in order to correct division. “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1Corinthians 1:10).

5) We can unite on the Bible! (**we can be just a “Christian”**).

6) “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the **disciples were called Christians** first in Antioch” (Acts 11:26 cf. Acts 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16).

VI. IT IS A HEAVENLY GOSPEL FOR A HELL BOUND WORLD.

1) “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” (1John 5:19).

2) “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” (John 3:16).

3) “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3).

CONCLUSION:

1) The world desperately needs God’s Gospel.

2) God has commissioned us to take the Gospel to every nation, to every creature.

(1) “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 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” (Matthew 28:18-20).

(2) “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

3) The Gospel not only saves one’s soul, it makes one a better person.

4) Jesus came to give us an abundant life. “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

5) Will you obey the Gospel?

”And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16).