

THE GOSPEL

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4 • TV211A

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1984
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Transcribed, edited and published
JANUARY 21ST, 2012

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Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
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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; 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 have a mighty big subject this morning. I want to speak to you on the subject: **“THE GOSPEL.”** That’s my topic, **“THE GOSPEL.”**

I am reading for a text, **1 Corinthians 15**, the first four verses, **1 Corinthians 15, verses 1 through 4** in which the apostle Paul wrote, *“brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also you have received and wherein you stand and by which you are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you unless you have believed in vain.”*

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“For I delivered unto you, first of all, that which I also received, how that Jesus 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.”

Now, I am convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that a lot of people are talking about the Gospel who never really preach the Gospel.

I listen to a lot of preachers on the radio, on television, and from the pulpit. They use the Bible and they talk a lot about sin and they talk about salvation. They even talk about the blood. They talk about eternal life, heaven and hell.

I listen in vain for a clear, plain, and Scriptural declaration of the Gospel. I ask you this morning; do you know the Gospel? What is the Gospel? I’m talking about the Gospel. Have you really heard the Gospel? I know that you have heard the term and I know that you have heard people talk about it but do you really know the Gospel?”

In the Scripture that I read to you, Paul declares that he preached the Gospel. He clearly defines it; he says, *“I preached unto you the gospel.”* That is what he preached. And he said, “You received the Gospel and you take a stand for the Gospel and you were saved by that Gospel.”

Now, the Word of God declares the importance of the Gospel. I want you to listen to just a few Scriptures. I am going to run through a few Scriptures from the **New Testament** and talk about the Gospel.

First of all: It says first of all in **Romans 1: verse 1** that this Gospel which we preach is the *“Gospel of God.”*

It is the Gospel of the Old Testament. It is the Gospel of the Old Testament prophets. It is the Gospel that was believed; it was the Gospel that was proclaimed; it was the Gospel that was written by men like Moses, Abraham, David, Job, Isaiah and all of them. It is the Gospel of God.

In **Romans 1:3** it says; *“the gospel is concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”* In **Romans 1:16** Paul declares that this Gospel *“is the power of God unto salvation.”* In this Gospel the righteousness of God is revealed and the wrath of God is revealed.

The mercy of God is revealed in this Gospel that we are attempting to define today. In **First Timothy 1:11**, Paul calls this Gospel, *“the gospel of God’s glory.”* It is the Gospel of the glorious Gospel of God.

In **Mark 16:15** our Lord sent His disciples forth with this command; *“you go into all the world and preach the gospel.”* That is your commission and that is your orders; *“go into all the world and preach the gospel.”*

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In **Galatians 1:8**, Paul says; *“if any man preach any other gospel than that gospel which we preached unto you, let him be accursed.”* He emphasizes it further when he says; *“though it be an angel from heaven, if an angel from heaven preaches any other gospel than that gospel which we have preached, let him be accursed.”*

In **Ephesians 1:13**, Paul calls it; *“the gospel of your salvation.”* In **Revelation 14:6**, he calls it; *“the everlasting gospel.”*

Do you know the Gospel? Does your preacher preach the Gospel? Does the preacher that you listen to on television preach the Gospel?

I ask myself the question this morning; do I preach the Gospel or do I just talk about it? Do I just use the term related to it or do I clearly, plainly, and scripturally define for you the Gospel?

I want you to listen carefully. There are three words that give birth to the Gospel, three words; this is very simple and very plain. You must understand it. I am saying this; the Gospel has not been preached unless these issues are clearly defined, unless they are dealt with.

I don't care what we preach, what we talk about, or how much Scripture we read. I don't care whether we talk about the beginning, the creation, millennium, prophecy, healing, or holiness, sanctification, or whatever we talk about. If we don't define these issues clearly and plainly, we have not preached any Gospel.

The Gospel is born of three words and the first word is this, sin.

In **Romans 5:12**, it says; *“wherefore, by one man, sin entered into the world.”* That is the cause and that is the reason for the Gospel; *“sin entered this world.”* That is the first word that gave birth to the Gospel; *“sin entered into this world and death by sin; so death passed upon all men.”*

Now, there are two groups of sin. I want you to listen to this; this is according to the Scriptures. Are we going to go by our feelings, or are we going to go by our denominational creeds or are we going to listen to the Word of God?

There are two groups of sin, the angel's sin and men's sin. The angels fell. You will read that in the Book of Isaiah, how that Satan led, someone said, “one third of the heavenly host” in rebellion against God Almighty.

Satan said; *“I will be like God. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God (I will, I will, I will).”* Christ said; *“I saw Satan fall from heaven as lightning.”* He was cast out.

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These angels that *“kept not their first estate,”* these fallen angels that rebelled against God, *“are reserved, (according to the **Book of Jude**), in everlasting chains of darkness unto the Day of Judgment.”*

For the angels who fell, there is no Gospel. For the angels have sinned first; there is no Gospel. There is no good news and there are no glad tidings; it is just not so.

In fact, the Scripture says plainly, that *“Jesus Christ took not on Him the nature of angels.”* He did not come to save angels. He didn't die on the cross for angels. He didn't give His life for angels.

The angels that fell will never be redeemed. They will never be restored because they have no substitute. They have no sin-offering; they have no Mediator; they have no Saviour.

Now; the second group that sinned is men.

Adam fell. *“By one man, sin entered into this world and death,”* (not only physical death but spiritual death and eternal death which is separation from God), *“and death by sin, so death passed upon all men.”*

Sin is the first word. It gave birth to the Gospel. The Gospel is here because of sin. The Gospel is presented because of men's sin, not the angel's sin, but the sin of Abraham's seed. *“He took not on Him the nature of angels but the seed of Abraham.”*

Now listen; in **1 Timothy 1:15** it says, *“This is a faithful saying that Jesus Christ is come into this world to save sinners.”* He came to save sinners. Jesus Christ came to save sinners. In **Romans 5:8** it says, *“God commanded His love toward us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

That is the first word. A man will never preach the Gospel unless he preaches the need of the Gospel or the cause of the Gospel and that is sin, man's sin. Christ died for sinners.

All right, the second word is satisfaction.

My friend; out there facing you and me is the holy law of God. Out there is the holy law of God. It will be obeyed. It must be obeyed and it shall be obeyed. It will be honored.

God's law has not been repealed. God's law has not been changed. **Romans 3:19** says, *“What the law saith.”* What does the Law say? It says guilty, *“what the law saith it saith to everyone that is under the law that every mouth may be stopped and all the world become guilty.”*

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The law says simply and plainly; guilty; shut your mouth; there is no alibi, no excuse, no justification; you are guilty. The law says, guilty.

“In the fullness of the time, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were born under the law.”

Our Lord said to His disciple, *“if your righteousness before the law does not exceed the righteousness of the best man on this earth, (who is seeking acceptance by that righteousness); you shall never enter the Kingdom of God.”*

I am saying this, that which gave birth to the Gospel is man’s need, sin.” His sin must be punished. His sins must be paid for. His sins sent Christ to be his redeemer. Satisfaction, God’s law must be honored; it must be satisfied.

I will tell you something else; out there is not only God’s law that must be honored and must be satisfied; out yonder is God’s justice. *“The judge of the earth will do right.”*

God must be just. He can be merciful. He can be gracious but He must be just. He must punish sin. The Scripture says, *“The wages of sin is death. The soul that sinneth shall surely die. Be sure your sins will find you out.”* These things are clear; God will punish sin. So, that is the second word, satisfaction.

If you don’t understand these words, you don’t understand the Gospel; you don’t understand the need of the Gospel. If you don’t deal with these issues you don’t deal with the Gospel. It is sin that must be dealt with, it is sin that must be punished. It is sin against which the cannons of heaven are turned.

It is sin and there must be satisfaction. God’s law must be honored. It will be; it must be; and it shall be honored by all who come before Him. God’s justice, God’s immutable, infinite, justice, will be satisfied.

The third word is substitution.

Man cannot honor God’s law nor can he do anything about his sin. *“Can the Ethiopian change his skin?”* That is what Jeremiah asked; *“can the leper change his spots? Neither can you do good that are accustomed to doing evil.”*

“There is none good; there is none righteous. They are all together become unprofitable. God looked down from heaven and saw that every imagination of man’s heart is evil continually.”

He cannot do anything about his sins. He cannot change the fact of his sin. He cannot honor God’s law; he cannot keep it. *“You that would be under the law; do you not hear the law?”* The law requires every jot and tittle to be honored in a perfect fashion, not only in word but in thought, in imagination, attitude, motive, and deed.

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Man cannot honor God's justice. He cannot satisfy the law. Throughout the endless ages of eternity in peril, man will never satisfy God's justice. God is an infinite God. His justice is infinite justice; He cannot ever be satisfied by a sinner.

So, man must have a substitute. That brings us to that third word substitute; he must have a substitute. He must have a kinsmen Redeemer. He is bankrupt; he's broke; and he's poverty stricken. He's in debt to God. He must have a kinsmen Redeemer to buy back his lost estate.

The only suitable substitute is not an angel, is not a preacher; it is the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Him who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."*

Isaiah 53 says; *"He was wounded for our transgression. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him. By His stripes we are healed."*

Christ honored the law by His perfect obedience and Christ satisfied God's justice by His death on Calvary's cross. *"He bore our sins in His body on the tree."*

He fully obeyed God's righteous law and *"honored it in every jot and tittle."* He said; *"I always do those things that please my Father."* And the Father said; *"this is my Son in whom I am well pleased."*

This is the Gospel. That is what Paul is talking about, the Gospel. He said, *"I preach the Gospel."* You received it and you took a stand for it. You believed it and you were saved by it. That Gospel is that Christ died for our sins *"according to the scriptures and that He was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."*

The apostle Paul looked forth to heaven, earth, and hell, and cried out; *"who is He that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God who maketh intercession for us."*

My friends; I say it loud and clear. I say it without fear of being contradictive by anyone who knows the Scriptures, the Gospel.

A man can preach. He can preach about creation. He can preach about types and prophecies. He can preach about good works. He can preach about sanctification. He can preach about holy living. He can preach about doing good things for your neighbor. He can preach prophecy. He can preach future events and He can preach about the second coming.

He can't preach the Gospel unless he clearly defines these three issues:

What is to be done about sin? Christ said; *"If you die in your sin, you cannot come where I am."* Something has to be done about your sin.

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You can turn over a new leaf but something has to be done about your sin. You can join the church but something has to be done about sin. Something has to be done about those two things.

That holy law of God, that holy, spotless, immaculate law of God will face you now or it will face you at the Judgment. It will be dealt with now or it will be dealt with at Judgment. It is going to come up.

With the justice of God, sin must be punished, your sins and my sins. Every transgression will receive “*a just recompense of reward*” either in you or in your substitute. Do you see what I am saying?

There is sin and satisfaction before the law and God’s justice. Then, we must have a substitute. Those three words gave birth to the Gospel of redeeming grace.

Now, in closing this message I want you to listen carefully while I sum up the message with five vital statements: There is the planning of salvation, salvation pictured, salvation performed, salvation preached and salvation praised. That is the Gospel.

Listen to it and let me give you these five things. I have made all the words begin with the same letter so you could remember them.

First of all: The Gospel was planned.

Salvation and the Gospel were planned by whom? Well, no group of religious leaders planned it. Adam didn’t plan it, Abraham didn’t plan it and the apostles didn’t plan it.

The Gospel of redemption was born in the heart of God in eternity past. Before there was ever a world, before the morning stars ever sang together, before God put the moon, the sun, the stars, and the planets in space, God Almighty determined to have a people.

You might say; “Do you have Scripture for that?” I have an abundance of Scripture. The Scripture says this; “*we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.*”

The Scripture says this as Paul is writing to the Thessalonians; he says, “*I thank God for you brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you unto salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth.*”

Let me ask you three questions:

Did you choose God or did He choose you? Now you think about that. Well, if you answer according to God’s Word, you can get what you think but if you answer according to the Bible, you will have to say “He chose us.” Christ said that to His disciples, He said; “*you didn’t choose me, I chose you.*”

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Let me ask you the second question: When did God choose you? When did this take place? When did this transaction take place?

Well, the Scripture says, (and I don't know what you think), but I know what the Scripture says; it says, "*Before the foundation of the world.*" That is what the Scripture says. "*We were chosen in Christ before the world began,*" from eternity past, in the everlasting covenant.

Let me ask you the third question: Why did God choose you? Why didn't He pass you by, He passed by millions of others; why did He not pass you by? "*It was according to the good pleasure of his will.*"

Not only did God determine to have a people but He determined by whom those people would be redeemed. He determined how they would be redeemed.

Christ Jesus was the Lamb, the sacrificial lamb, the suffering lamb, the lamb sin-offering. He was the lamb scapegoat. "*Christ was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.*"

You see, the covenant is called an "*everlasting covenant.*" Christ is the surety of an everlasting covenant. "*He is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He is the great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant.*"

I remember years ago when I was listening to the Eisenhower funeral sermon and they came to the end of it. President Eisenhower died and the man that preached his funeral came to the end and read that Scripture from the **Book of Hebrews**; "*now unto the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.*"

I thought to myself, I wonder how many people out there have any idea of what he is talking about, "*the blood of an eternal covenant.*" That covenant is from the beginning. That covenant was before the foundation of the world.

Christ was the Shepherd, the Lamb, the Surety, the Priest, and the Mediator of that covenant in God's purpose before this world began. So, God planned the Gospel.

Secondly: God pictured it; God pictured the Gospel.

From the Garden of Eden, when our mother and father Adam and Eve fell, right away God pictured the way that they would be saved.

Here they are standing in the Garden and they were naked. They tried to clothe themselves with fig-leaf aprons to cover their nakedness, to cover their shame.

Our God Himself came down and slew an animal and shed blood. The first blood shed was to cover man's sin. That was the first time that blood had ever been shed. It was shed to cover man's sin.

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He took the skin of that animal and clothed Adam and Eve. That is a picture of Christ our substitute who died the innocent for the guilty to cover our sin.

Then, there was Cain and Abel. Do you remember how Cain brought his offering of fruits to the field, things he had grown and things he had produced? God rejected his offering and rejected his sacrifice because it was a bloodless sacrifice.

His brother Abel came with the lamb, the firstling of the flock, without blemish or spot. *“He slew the lamb, shed its blood on the altar and God had respect for his offering”* because it was a blood sacrifice, a picture of Christ; he pictured redemption.

Noah’s Ark floated upon the waters of judgment. The people in the ark were preserved and the people outside perished. That ark was a type of Christ.

Down in Egypt when God would deliver Israel from Egypt, He told them on the night that the firstborn was slain; *“take a lamb without spot or blemish and slay that lamb and put the blood on the lintel and on the doorpost. When I see the blood I will pass over you.”*

In all of the centuries and all of the years down to the coming of Christ, the Jews kept that Passover. *“The blood maketh atonement for the soul.”* It is the blood that makes atonement for sinners.

And Christ ate that Passover with His disciples. When He did, He instituted the Lord’s Table which we observe today. That bread pictures the broken body of Christ and that wine pictures His shed blood.

You can go throughout the wilderness and see the rock that Moses smote. The water came out and Christ said; *“I am that rock. I am the water of life.”*

You can see the manna fall from heaven, that bread from heaven. Christ said, *“Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; I am the bread from heaven.”* That was a picture of Christ.

When the high priest went into the Holy of Holies and there was the Ark of the Covenant, in that ark was the broken Law. Overshadowing that ark was the Mercy Seat and the high priest once a year would take the blood of a lamb and put it on that Mercy Seat covering the broken law.

The blood would run over the Mercy Seat. Mercy Seat means propitiation. It means forgiveness and it means remission. That blood would run over that Mercy Seat covering that broken Law. That is a picture of Christ.

You can just keep going through the Old Testament; He was the *“brazen serpent lifted up.”* There were all of the sacrifices; that is a picture of Christ.

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When our Lord said to those religious leaders of His day, He said; *“you are busy searching the scriptures for in them you think that you have life. They are they which testify of me.”*

The Old Testament is full of the Gospel. It is the Gospel. It is the Gospel pictured on every page. It is the Gospel typified; it is the Gospel promised; and it is the Gospel prophesied.

Thirdly: It is the Gospel performed.

How was the Gospel performed? *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief. By one man’s disobedience (Adam), we were made sinners, by one man’s obedience we were made righteous.”* That is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Peter said; *“You are not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold but with the precious blood of Christ.”*

Now, listen to this Scripture in **Hebrews 10**. I want to read you two or three verses in **Hebrews 10:11**: *“And every priest, (that is talking about the Old Testament priest) standeth; (they never sat down because their work was never finished), daily ministering and offering the same sacrifice of which can never take away sin:*

“But this man, (Jesus Christ), after He had offered one sacrifice for sin forever sat down at the right hand of God having by one offering perfected forever them that are sanctified.”

Do you see what I am saying? Christ performed the Gospel. He purchased it. He paid the price. He paid the debt:

**“All the debt I owe
Sin left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.”**

My friend; that is the Gospel performed.

Fourthly: Now, the Gospel preached.

We are preaching the Gospel. That is what I am doing this morning; I am preaching the Gospel. This Gospel has been committed to the trust of men. It has been put into the hands of men.

Yes, it has been put in human vessels, the vessels of clay, weak vessels. Call it what you will, but nevertheless, we are sent by God to preach the Gospel, this Gospel we are to preach.

We are not to talk about it but we are to preach it. We are not just to dig into all of the things and the mysteries around it; we are to preach it. We are to proclaim the Gospel. We must be faithful to preach it. We must be faithful to clearly present it to our hearers.

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Paul said this; *“Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel for that gospel is the power of God unto salvation.”*

Last of all: This Gospel will be forever praised. It is the song of glory. *“Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sin in his own precious blood and hath made us kings and priests unto God; unto Him be glory both now and forever.”*

That is the song of the redeemed in glory. That is the Gospel. *“Thou art worthy to take the Book because thou wast slain and has redeemed us to God from every tribe, kindred, nation, and tongue under heaven.”*

My friends; that is the Gospel, the Gospel!