

Bible Doctrines II

Falls International Baptist Institute

Class Nine, Ten, and Eleven

The Doctrine of Christ

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

Text: I 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.”*

Introduction: We have studied the pre-existence, the Deity, the Humanity, the Virgin-Birth, the Life, Death, and Bodily Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this lesson, we will study the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Normally, a study of the doctrine of Jesus Christ would not include a lesson on the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. That subject would be dealt with in a study of the Doctrine of Salvation; however, because of the many misconceptions that exist concerning the gospel message, we feel it necessary to study “The Gospel of Christ” in this course.

I. The Message of the Gospel of Christ: Mark 1:1 *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”*

- A. The Simplicity of the Message: **I Corinthians 15:1-4 gives a scriptural definition of the gospel: it is the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ**; nothing more, nothing less, nothing else!
- B. The Stumbling Block of the Message: I Corinthians 1:18, 23 *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God... But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness.”*
 1. I Peter 2:6-8 says *“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”*
 2. Galatians 5:11 says *“And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.”*

3. What makes the message of the gospel so offensive? Why is it a stumblingblock? The answer is found in Romans 9:32-33:
“Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”
To a world full of people who think they can be good enough to earn Heaven, the cross is offensive! The gospel of Jesus Christ demands humble confession of sin; not proud proclamations of self-righteousness! The gospel of Christ declares that man is so sinful, he is hopelessly lost in sin: that is offensive! The gospel of Christ demands that a sinner repent of his sin and self-righteousness and place his faith in Jesus Christ alone as his only means of salvation: that is offensive. The world stumbles over the simple message of a bloody, wooden cross in their attempt to keep an un-bloody law of stone!

C. **The Sermon of the Message of Christ: I Corinthians 1:23 “But we preach Christ crucified...”**

1. II Corinthians 4:5 says *“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.”*
2. II Corinthians 2:1-5 *“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*
3. Our message is Christ Alone! Acts 4:10-12 says *“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

- D. The Sanctioning of the Message: Mark 16:15 *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* Our message has been sanctioned or authorized by Jesus Christ Himself!

II. **The Mission of the Gospel of Christ: Mark 16:15 See above ^^^**

- A. The Seat of the Mission: Acts 1:8 *“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.”* The beginning of our mission was Jerusalem, where Christ suffered, bled, died, was buried, and rose again. The gospel has

been carried to the uttermost parts of the earth. However, as we read these verses today, we understand our Jerusalem to be the location in which we live! The Seat of my Mission right now is Falls International Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, SD. The seat of your mission right now is in your Jerusalem: Takoradi, Ghana. Your mission field starts where you are.

- B. **The Scope of the Mission: The World:** Mark 16:15 *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* Do you understand what that means? That means that the scope of our mission is the entire world; it involves every creature! Our mission is not finished until every creature has a preacher. God never meant for one geographical location to become saturated with the gospel while other locations starve to eternal death.
- C. **The Sequence of the Mission:** The order of the mission of the gospel of Christ is simply put in Matthew 28:18-20:
1. **Preach Christ:** the death, burial, and resurrection
 2. **Baptize Converts:** the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
 3. **Disciple Believers:** Sanctification; Service; Surrender
 4. Once believers have been discipled, they get sent out to do the same thing in other locations!
- D. **The Speed of the Mission: When we study the New Testament principle of missions, we learn that the gospel was preached in every nation under heaven** in a very short time period:
1. Colossians 1:23 *“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.”*
 2. Titus 2:11 says *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.”*
 3. **The only hindrances to the speed of the mission are us:**
 - a. **Sin limits our speed:** I Corinthians 15:34 says *“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”*
 - b. **Disobedience to the heavenly mission limits our speed:** Acts 26:16-19 *“But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.”*

III. The Mighty Power of the Gospel of Christ: 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.*”

A. Power to Forgive Sin and its Penalty: Hell

1. Matthew 9:6 introduces us to the power that Jesus Christ has to forgive sins: “*But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*”
2. In Luke 5:20, Jesus Christ had the boldness to tell a man: “*...Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.*”
3. Acts 26:18 “*To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*”
4. The word “forgive” means “*To pardon; to remit, as an offense or debt; to overlook an offense, and treat the offender as not guilty.*” Because I Corinthians 15 states clearly that Christ died “for our sins”, we understand that He took the guilt and penalty of our offenses! II Corinthians 5:21 states that “*he hath made him to be sin for us.*” Isaiah 53:5 says that “*he was wounded for our transgressions.*” The Gospel of Jesus Christ offers forgiveness for any and every sin to any and every sinner! Once a sinner accepts the gospel by faith, he is pardoned by God Almighty and treated by God as “not guilty”.
5. Ephesians 1:7 “*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*”
6. Colossians 2:12-14 “*Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*”

B. Power to Cleanse the Past Stain of Sin: Conscience

1. Isaiah 1:18 “*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*” Sin stains the heart, the soul, the mind, and the conscience! The power of the gospel of Jesus Christ can cleanse the heart, soul, mind, and conscience from the guilty stains of sin!
2. In Psalm 51:7, King David prayed “*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*” His conscience was stained by sin and he was asking God for cleansing!

3. The cleansing of our sins, and the stains left by sin upon our conscience are made possible by the bloody death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 9:14 says *“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* The word “purge” in this verse literally means *“To clear from guilt or moral defilement.”*
4. Hebrews 10:2, 22 Read this whole chapter!
5. I John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*
6. Where sin leads the conscience of a man to doubt, distrust, discouragement, debt, disillusionment, depression, despair, and even death; the blood of Christ has the power to purge the conscience! Wipe it clean!!! Hallelujah!!!

C. **Power to Transform from the Power of Sin: Addictions**

1. Sin is powerful! Sin is highly addictive! Jesus said in John 8:34 *“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”*
 - a. Proverbs 5:22 says *“His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.”*
 - b. Romans 6:16 says *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”*
2. The Gospel of Jesus Christ effects change: Romans 6:17-18 says *“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”* That’s transformation! This is the reason that many people call salvation a conversion. It is a conversion from sin to the Saviour.
 - a. John 8:32, 36 *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*
 - b. There is perhaps no greater verse in the Bible that speaks of the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to transform lives than Isaiah 61:1 *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”* Jesus Himself quoted this verse in Luke 4:18 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and*

recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”

IV. The Misrepresentation of the Gospel of Christ: Galatians 1:6-9 “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 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.*”

When the Apostle Paul left Ephesus, he warned them that “*For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*”

- A. The Purity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: Christ Alone! Notice that Galatians 1 called the Gospel “the grace of Christ” and the “gospel of Christ”. The good news of the gospel of the grace of Christ is Christ!
 - 1. Romans 4:1-8 The gospel is grace without works! Salvation is purely a result of the grace of God! There is absolutely no human effort required! All we do is receive it! That’s pure grace!
 - 2. Romans 11:6 “*And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*”
 - 3. Once received, it has transformative power and it will change the position immediately and the practice eventually of its recipient.
- B. The Perverting of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: Christ Plus Something.
 - 1. The Judaizers of Galatia were perverting and twisting the pure message of the gospel of Christ into a mixture of Christ plus Circumcision. Paul rebuked them sharply in his epistle!
 - 2. Any gospel that adds anything to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as a means of salvation is a perverted gospel! The Gospel is not Christ plus baptism, or Christ plus church membership, or Christ plus good works. Salvation is Christ Alone.
 - 3. We are not saved by works; we are not kept by works. We are saved by grace and kept by grace. Galatians 3 speaks clearly to this truth.
- C. The Problem with Changing the Gospel of Jesus Christ: it is Satanically inspired! It results in false hope and ends in eternal damnation for the masses of people who believe it.
 - 1. II Corinthians 11:13-15 says “*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*”

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

2. Jude said in verses 3-4 *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”*