

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:1 – 4:5  
Singing: 1:1-5 – 21:1-4 – 428:1, 3 – 356:1-3

LD: 7:22-23

Intro: *Any teaching which does not square with the Scriptures is to be rejected even if it shows miracles every day.* (Martin Luther) Gal. 1:6-9

### PAUL'S GOSPEL

I. Needs to be declared by preaching II. Needs to be received by faith  
III. Needs to be kept in memory IV. Needs to be passed on to others

#### I. Paul's Gospel needs to be declared by preaching

A. What is the Gospel Paul refers to?

1. He defined it as *story of Jesus Christ*: vs. 3-4ff
  - a. this 'story of redemption' is the *heart and center of Scriptures*
2. The 12 articles sum up the **essential content of Gospel** taught by apostles
  - a. Apostle's Creed is not written by the 12 apostles
  - b. The 3 Creeds capture the truths *foundational to salvation* (Col. 1:23)
    - implies that not everything in Bible is *foundational to salvation*

B. This Gospel needs to be declared by **preaching** (2 Tim. 4:2)

1. I am sent to you by Lord Jesus to *make known glad tidings of Gospel*
  - a. it is the tidings of *the Triune God at work to make salvation reality*

C. This Gospel needs to be *repeatedly preached* (vs, 1, 3)

1. because Gospel is like *unsearchable* riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8)
2. because Gospel is *God's power to save* (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18ff)
  - a. we witness fulfilment of 2 Tim. 3:1 - 4:3-4 (Ps. 11:2-3)
  - b. against these assaults against foundations, the glorious Gospel of the blessed God will be *victorious* (1 Cor. 15:57-58)
3. because Gospel preached leads to *assurance of faith* (Luke 24:27, 44-45)

#### II. Paul's Gospel is to be received by us through faith

A. God's Gospel not a 'news bulletin'

1. It is **proclamation** with a call to obey, invitation come, promises to believe

2. To receive/stand on Jesus's Gospel implies a *rejection of devil's lies*

### **III. The Gospel is to be kept in memory to be saved in truth**

A. Paul pleads w/ Corinthians not to let go teaching he delivered to them (1, 3)

1. These early Christians faced the *heresy denying resurrection of Jesus*

2. What happens to 'our faith' when we deny the *fundamental doctrines*?

a. our faith, hope, comforts are vain (1 Cor. 15: 13, 14, 17)

B. Therefore we need to *keep in memory, which is "to hold fast" (believe)*

C. Paul asserted that we *are saved **only if** we keep it in memory*

1. It does not mean that my salvation is 'conditioned' on my faith

2. Yet it confirms the link between *faith and saved*

### **IV. The Gospel is to be delivered by us to others (vs. 3-4)**

A. Paul 'received Gospel from God'

1. Gospel of Jesus is passed on to us *and needs to be passed on by us*

2. The **essentials** of the Gospel are summarized in confessional standards

*Brief summaries of Christian doctrine are of great use to young beginners. The principles of the Word of God are brought into a little compass in the creeds and catechisms. They are like the beams of the sun contracted in a sunglass. Through this they convey the divine light and heat with a wonderful power.*

**Closing plea:** *Value, study and live the doctrines of Holy Scripture!*

A. The doctrines of the Gospel are as essential as the duties of the Gospel

Deut. 32:2

*My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.*

Romans 6:17

*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.*

B. Resist the arrogance of *choosing what you like and rejecting what you dislike* the truths in the Gospel (Augustine)