



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Evangelism Conference 2013

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The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

The Gospel Message

The Exclusivity & Sufficiency of

Jesus Christ

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The Gospel

I am convinced that a low view/understanding of the gospel produces a low fulfillment of the great commission (Matt 28:16-20)

Obedience to the great commission is produced by love

- A love for God and a love for others (because He loved us 1 John 4)
 - John 14:15, Romans 9:2
- **Luke 7:36-48** *Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.*”
- When we recognize how much grace we are under and what we deserve (which comes through repeated exposure to the gospel) we love much (God and man), and we will proclaim the gospel more

A wrong understanding of the gospel produces a low view of God, a high view of self, a low view of sin, a low view of the cross/Jesus, small love, and little, if any gospel preaching

The Gospel

Jude 3 *Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.*

Galatians 1:6-9 *6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

In order to contend for the faith and discern if we are hearing another gospel we must know the gospel

The Gospel

There is a simplicity to the gospel message that a child (by grace) can understand. While at the same time, there is a depth to the gospel that we will never get to the end of in all eternity.

Although we pray to be thorough in our times together, we could never cover all there is to know about the gospel in a weekend (let alone a lifetime)

The Gospel

One of the clearest and most concise writings regarding the gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you

Gospel-Good tidings, Good news

The gospel is good news because it answers the question “How can guilty mankind be forgiven of his sin, while God remains holy and just?”

It is a message of hope

The gospel (good news) is to be proclaimed

In it's simplest form (Gospel)

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

which you received, in which you stand

Which you received-The gospel demands a response

- It is either received or rejected (there is no neutral ground)
- It is received through repentance and faith (To receive is to believe John 1:12)
- Mark 1:15 “*Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel.**”*”
- True faith (turning to Jesus/gospel) is always accompanied by true repentance (turning from sin)
- To receive the gospel is to trust in the gospel alone as your hope in standing before God (*in which you stand*)

and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain

by which you are being saved –In order for someone to see the gospel as good news to save us, that person must know they are lost (sinful/guilty)

- It is important that we show people their need to be saved (Holiness of God, sinfulness of man, punishment of sin (Hell))
- “I have good news, God has made a way for you to be saved”
- If someone believes in the gospel with genuine saving faith, they are saved
 - **Acts 16:31** “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved”
 - **Romans 10:9** “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

If you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain

- Genuine saving faith is continuing faith (perseverance)
- The evidence you have truly placed your hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ, is you continue to trust in the gospel
- *Believing in vain*-Dead faith (James 2:14-26, 1 John)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received

For I delivered to you as of first importance-The idea here is one of preeminence

- The gospel (knowing/understanding it) should be the highest priority in our lives
- We need to know all of scripture (whole counsel) but we must also see that the whole of scripture points us to Jesus Christ and the gospel
- In our study of the gospel we will, Lord willing, come to see that it is not merely the entrance into the kingdom of God (and then we move on) but something we live in daily and we must preach to ourselves daily

What I also received –Paul received the gospel directly from Jesus Christ (Gal 1:11-12)

- We must make sure that our gospel is biblical (not what is being peddled around us)
- Test everything and hold fast to what is good (1 Thess 5:21)

that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures

That Christ died for our sins:

- Knowing that God is holy, righteous and just (Is 6, Ps 97:2), and that man is sinful (Rom 3:10), and deserving of hell (Rom 2:6-8); how can God forgive sinful mankind and still remain just (Punish sin)?
 - Another way of asking this is asking “What hope do you have of being forgiven when you stand before God?”
- Exclusivity of the gospel-Scripture teaches there is one way for mankind to be saved- Jesus Christ (And Christ alone)
- *That Christ-Jesus is the Christ, Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in **no one else** (Jesus Christ), for there is **no other** name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*
 - **1 Timothy 2:5** *For there is one God, and there is **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*
 - **John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, “I am **the** way, and **the** truth, and **the** life. No one comes to the Father **except** through me.*
 - There is a narrow gate and a narrow way and few find it (Matt 7:13-14)

*that Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures*

That Christ died for our sins:

- God has only provided One Savior, the God-Man Jesus Christ
- *Christ-Jesus is God in the flesh (John 8:58, Col 2:9, John 10:33)*
- *He died for our sins*
 - Substitutionary atonement, propitiation, imputation
 - We must understand and be able to explain how Jesus death on the cross saves us
 - **Mark 14:34** *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** *God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*
 - **Isaiah 53:10** *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*
 - **1 John 4:10** *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
 - **Romans 3:24-25** *(All) are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*

*that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.*

That He was buried-This statement confirms that Jesus did die

- **Hebrews 9:22** *without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins*

He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

- Jesus died in our place for our sins (took our punishment) but three days later He was raised from the dead
 - Showing: He had conquered sin and death, and that God had accepted the sacrifice. Now God can be just and the justifier of one who has faith in Jesus
- Sufficiency of gospel of Jesus Christ (Jesus life, death & resurrection are sufficient for salvation through faith)
 - Nothing removed and nothing added (Different gospel)
 - **John 19:30** *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*
 - **Romans 4:25** *who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification*
 - **Romans 4:3-5**
 - Our faith/hope is not in a dead Savior but a living Savior (1 Peter 1:3 Living Hope)

The Gospel Message

In it's simplest form the gospel message is that Jesus Christ, being God in the flesh, died for our sins according to the scripture, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures

In proclaiming the gospel we must understand and be able to share:

- Who is God (Holy, Righteous, Just)
- Who is mankind (Sinful, Deserving of hell, Hopeless in himself)
- Who is Jesus (God in the flesh, The Messiah, Only hope for mankind)
- What Jesus accomplished in His life, death, resurrection
- What is the gospel response? Repentance and faith in Jesus Christ alone

To the degree we are given to know God, through His word, and know the gospel (Meditation/grace of Spirit) we will be humbled by His grace, filled with His love (Him, Church, Lost) and fulfill the great commission.