

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Gospel Truth

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 10

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The word “Gospel” means “good news.”
 - i) This word is used over ninety times in the New Testament.
 - ii) What do you do with good news? You tell it.
- b) We should be excited about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - i) This is good news:
 - (1) Jesus Christ has conquered death, Hell, the grave and judgment; and we can live forever with Him.
- c) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- d) The thing that makes good news good news is the possibility of bad news.
 - i) Good news is not good news unless there’s bad news that makes the good news good.
- e) 1 Corinthians 15:3
 - i) The bad news is our sin.
- f) In today’s world, we’ve tried to explain away sin.
 - i) We like better words, such as error, mistake, misjudgment, weakness, psychological maladjustment, etc.
 - (1) Today, a man is not a thief; he’s an embezzler.
 - (2) A woman is no longer a harlot; she’s a lady of the evening.
 - (3) No one is a drunkard; he’s an alcoholic today.
 - ii) There is a school of psychology known as behaviorism that says that man is just the sum total of his chemistry and environment.
 - (1) He is just reacting to what’s on the inside and what’s on the outside, and he cannot be blamed for that.
 - (a) Perhaps, he was raised in a bad neighborhood.
 - (2) Everyone is sick, but nobody is sinful.
 - (3) Everyone is weak, but nobody is wicked.
 - (4) Everyone is ill, but nobody is evil.
 - iii) The evolutionist explains sin by saying that we are just an accident, and we just happened.
 - (1) We just evolved from some primitive protozoa to what we are today, so there really is nothing called sin.
 - (2) There is no sin because there’s no fixed standard of right or wrong.
 - (a) Everything is changing, and there is no absolute standard.
 - iv) The humanist today says that sin is the invention of a church to keep everybody in line.
 - v) Liberal preachers have bought into all three of the above schools of thought.
 - g) Public enemy number one is sin.
 - i) Sin is a clinched fist in the face of God.
 - ii) Romans 6:23
 - iii) Ezekiel 18:20
 - iv) Romans 5:12
 - v) James 2:10

- (1) You only have to break just one of the Ten Commandments to be a sinner.
 - (a) Have you ever told a lie?
 - (b) Have you ever cheated in school?
 - (c) Have you ever deceived your parents?
 - (d) Did you ever take something that did not belong to you?
 - (i) Perhaps some money from your mother's dresser?
 - (ii) Did you steal an answer in school?
 - (e) We may think these are small things, but they are indicators of a bigger problem.
 - (i) The problem is not what a person does but what he is.
 - h) Matthew 15:19
 - i) A man is not a thief because he steals; he steals because he's a thief.
 - ii) A man is not a liar because he tells lies; he lies because he's a liar.
 - i) We do what we do because we are what we are.
 - i) There is something in the human nature that is called sin.
 - ii) Until we deal with this problem and admit that there is bad news, the Gospel will never be good news to us.
 - (1) Sometimes little children want to walk down a church aisle and join the church.
 - (a) As parents, we shouldn't let our children come forward and be baptized until they first understand that they are sinners.
 - (b) As parents, we don't have to convict them that they are sinners.
 - (i) They do not need the conviction of mom and dad but of the Holy Spirit.
 - (c) When the Holy Spirit convicts the child of sin, then he or she can understand their need for a Savior.
 - iii) It is the bad news that makes the good news good.
 - j) There are three things about the Gospel that we will see in today's message:
 - i) We will see the source of the Gospel.
 - (1) Where it comes from.
 - ii) We will see the force of the Gospel.
 - (1) Its mighty power.
 - iii) We will see the course of the Gospel.
 - (1) Where it goes and what it does.
- 2) THE SOURCE OF THE GOSPEL (1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4)
- a) The source of the Gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - b) 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
 - i) "First of all" in this passage does not mean that this is the first thing said; it means "of first importance."
 - (1) This is the highest priority, the main thing.
 - c) The bad news is our sins.
 - i) What is the problem of sin?

- (1) Sin brings penalty.
- (2) Sin brings pollution.
- (3) Sin brings power.
 - (a) It doesn't give you power; it has power over you.
- d) The death of Jesus Christ pays the penalty for our sin.
 - i) When Jesus Christ died on the cross, that was full payment for our sins.
 - ii) The Bible says:
 - (1) That Jesus died for our sins.
 - (a) This means on behalf of our sins.
 - (2) He died to pay our sin debt.
 - (3) He did it according to Scripture.
 - (a) The death of Jesus on the cross was not an incident, an accident or an after-thought; it was according to the Scriptures.
 - (i) Isaiah 53:6
 1. Our sins were laid upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. Jesus took our sins to the cross.
 3. In agony, He suffered, bled and died on that cross; and there was the full payment for our sins.
 - a. John 19:30
 - iii) God is holy and righteous, and sin must be paid for.
 - (1) God cannot merely overlook sin.
 - (2) God cannot forgive sin without payment being made.
 - (a) If God were to do that, then He would no longer be holy, just or righteous.
 - (b) Even in our own courts of law, a judge must see that payment is made.
 - (i) It is said that when a guilty man is acquitted, the judge is condemned.
 - (3) If God willingly, knowingly and deliberately overlooked sin, then God would become a sinner.
 - iv) The cross of Jesus Christ was full payment for our sins.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:3
 - e) The burial of Jesus Christ purges the pollution of sin.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 15:4
 - (1) Not only did He die, but He was also buried.
 - ii) Not only is there full payment, but there is also free pardon.
 - iii) Jesus was sealed in the grave for three days and three nights.
 - iv) Why does the Bible put an emphasis upon the burial of Jesus Christ?
 - (1) So that everyone would know that He was truly dead.
 - (a) There are those who believe that Jesus never really died on the cross.
 - (i) Some theorize that He only fainted on the cross.
 1. This is called the swoon theory.
 - (b) Jesus was placed in a rock-hewn grave.

- (c) In front of that grave was placed a stone measuring four-and-a-half feet to five feet tall.
 - (i) Engineers estimate that the stone weighed one-and-a-half to two tons.
- (d) Jesus was beaten, nailed to the cross, was pierced in the side with a sword, was wrapped in linen very much like a mummy, and left in the grave for three days and three nights.
- (e) A Roman guard, who feared their own death, stood watch at His tomb.
- (f) There are no ifs, ands or buts; Jesus died and was buried.
- (2) The primary reason is because of what His burial shows.
 - (a) There is the pollution of sin, and the Gospel deals with the purging of our sin.
 - (i) Our problem is not just the penalty that our sin deserves, but it is also what sin has done to us.
 - (b) The Gospel of Jesus Christ cleanses us on the inside.
 - (i) It's not merely that we don't have to go to Hell; Jesus makes our hearts clean.
 - (ii) The defilement and the pollution of sin are put in the grave of God's forgetfulness.
 - (c) Jesus' burial means that He had become sin and died for us and that sin is put out of sight; He is buried.
 - (d) When we get saved (surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ), not only does He forgive us (judicial forgiveness), but He also cleanses us on the inside.
 - (i) Our sins are pardoned and buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness.
 - (ii) We never have to be haunted by the ghost of guilt.
 - (iii) The old person we used to be is dead, gone and buried.
 - 1. This is what baptism is all about.
 - a. We're buried with Him in baptism.
- f) The resurrection of Jesus Christ prevails over the power of sin.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 15:4
 - ii) Jesus rose on the third day triumphant over sin.
 - iii) He has demolished the power of sin.
 - (1) It was sin that crucified Jesus.
 - (2) It was sin that nailed Him to the cross.
 - (3) But now, He is raised.
 - iv) The literal Greek construction of "and that He rose again" in this passage is "He was raised again."
 - (1) God the Father raised Jesus from the dead.
 - v) Acts 2:23-24
 - (1) Jesus Christ was put on trial, and they said He needed to be crucified.
 - (2) God the Father reversed that court and raised Him up.

- vi) The resurrection was God's stamp of approval upon His life.
 - (1) Only ignorance scoffs at the fact that Jesus Christ was here as a person, as an individual upon this Earth.
 - (a) Even history testifies that He was here.
 - (b) He split the centuries: AD and BC.
 - (2) Your only question is who was Jesus?
 - (a) There are only three choices:
 - (i) Was He a liar who said that He was God and knew He wasn't?
 - (ii) Was He a lunatic who thought He was God and wasn't?
 - (iii) Was He Lord?
 - (b) Romans 1:4
 - (i) Beyond the shadow of any doubt, Jesus Christ walked out of that grave and is shown alive with many infallible proofs.
 - (ii) There is more proof that Jesus Christ came out of that grave than that Julius Caesar ever lived.
 - (3) Jesus Christ is declared to be the Son of God with power.
 - vii) In the Greek language, the aorist tense is used to describe a fact that's accomplished.
 - (1) The Bible says that Jesus died for our sins.
 - (a) This is in the aorist tense.
 - (b) It's done, finished.
 - (c) He died never to die again.
 - (2) Jesus was buried.
 - (a) This too is in the aorist tense.
 - (b) It's done; it's an accomplished fact.
 - (3) When the Bible says that He was raised again, this is not in the aorist tense but in the present tense.
 - (a) This means always.
 - (b) He did rise, He is risen, and He always will be risen.
 - (i) We are never done with Jesus Christ.
 - (ii) Even if you deny Him and refuse Him, you will one day meet Him in the judgment.
 - g) The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is God's answer, the good news, concerning the bad news.
- 3) THE FORCE OF THE GOSPEL (1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-2)
- a) The saving force:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 15:2
 - (1) There's no other way to be saved apart from the Gospel.
 - ii) Romans 1:16
 - iii) The Gospel of Christ is the power of God to everyone who believes.
 - (1) To be saved from the penalty of sin.
 - (2) To be saved from the pollution of sin.
 - (3) To be set free from the power of sin.

- iv) 1 Corinthians 15:2
 - (1) To “keep in memory” literally means “to hold fast.”
 - (a) Hold fast what was preached to you; don’t change it or amend it.
 - (b) If it’s new, it’s not true.
 - (c) There is only one Gospel and no other Gospel.
 - b) The sanctifying force:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 15:2
 - (1) “Saved” here is in the present tense and literally means “by which you are being saved.”
 - ii) The Gospel and salvation are in the present tense.
 - (1) I have been saved from the penalty of sin.
 - (2) I am being saved from the power of sin.
 - (3) One day, I will be saved from the very presence of sin.
 - (a) The Gospel continues to work.
 - iii) God is not finished with us.
 - (1) Philippians 1:6
 - iv) Salvation is a crisis where you come to God, acknowledge that you are a sinner, ask God to forgive your sin and to come into your heart and save you; and He does.
 - (1) Salvation is a crisis that’s followed by a process.
 - (a) God continues to work in you day by day, making you more like the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c) The stabilizing force:
 - i) 1 Corinthians 15:1
 - (1) It’s good news that we can be saved.
 - (2) It’s better news that we can be saved and know it.
 - (3) It’s glorious news that we can be saved, know that we’re saved, and know that once we’re saved, we can never lose it.
 - ii) When you get saved, you don’t keep Him; He keeps you.
 - iii) Romans 14:4
 - (1) We should never judge or criticize a stumbling Christian.
 - (a) He is God’s servant, not our servant.
 - (2) God is able to make him stand; God will hold him up.
 - iv) Once God saves you by His grace, He keeps you by His grace.
 - v) 1 Corinthians 15:10
- 4) THE COURSE OF THE GOSPEL (1 CORINTHIANS 15:10)
- a) The Gospel of Jesus Christ extends to every person.
 - i) Romans 10:13
 - ii) No matter what you’ve done, Jesus will save you if you will trust Him.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 15:10
 - (1) Paul called himself the chiefest of sinners, but God’s grace reached even him.
 - b) It extends to every place.

- i) You don't have to be in a church to be saved.
- ii) Right where you are at this moment, Jesus will save you.
- c) It extends to every problem.
 - i) Every problem that we have is a subcategory of three things:
 - (1) Sin
 - (2) Sorrow
 - (3) Death
 - ii) The Gospel is the only answer to sin, sorrow and death.
 - (1) There is no other book, no other plan, no other teacher, no other method and no other way apart from the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to deal with sin, sorrow and death.
 - iii) The greatest problem is death.
 - (1) We are going to die, but the Gospel is that Christ was raised from the dead and has conquered the grave.
 - (2) Our loved ones who are in Heaven are there because of the Gospel of Christ that's conquered sin, death, Hell and the grave.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Romans 1:16
- b) Salvation is not in the merit of man but in the mercy of God.
 - i) Salvation is not in the goodness of man but in the grace of God.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16