

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** What Is the Gospel?

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2468

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2023 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The word “gospel” is a word that is carelessly used.
  - i) We talk about gospel music, but it has no Gospel in it.
  - ii) Someone may tell the truth and say that it is the gospel truth.
    - (1) It may be true, but it is not the Gospel truth.
  - iii) A preacher may preach wonderful teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, but that is not the Gospel.
- b) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
  - i) The Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- c) 1 Corinthians 1:23-24
- d) The word “gospel” comes from a combination of the words “good” and “spell.”
  - i) It means “spelling out good things” or “telling good things.”
  - ii) The Greek word literally means “good news.”
- e) The Gospel is the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - i) The best news this world has ever heard came from a graveyard outside of Jerusalem.
    - (1) “He is not here; He has risen.”
      - (a) Matthew 28:6
- f) Good news is not good news unless there is the possibility of bad news.
  - i) The good news is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - ii) The bad news that makes the good news good is found in 1 Corinthians 15:3.
    - (1) “Christ died for our sins.”
- g) People don’t like the idea of sin.
  - i) The evolutionist doesn’t like sin.
    - (1) He says that man has not had enough time to develop properly.
  - ii) The geneticist says that the problem is in the genes and chromosomes.
    - (1) They say that maybe one day we can make designer babies and do away with the problem of sin.
  - iii) The sociologist says that the problem is in the environment.
    - (1) They say that if we change the environment, then we will change the person.
  - iv) The educator says that we need to teach more.
    - (1) The problem is ignorance.
  - v) All of these things deal with what man lacks.
    - (1) The evolutionist says that he lacks time.
    - (2) The geneticist says that he lacks the ingredients.
    - (3) The environmentalist says that he lacks the proper surroundings.
    - (4) The sociologist says that he lacks the training.
    - (5) The educator says that he lacks knowledge.
- h) Man’s problem is not what he lacks but what he has.
  - i) It is sin.

- i) Sin brings about three things:
    - i) Sin brings debt.
    - ii) Sin brings defilement.
    - iii) Sin brings dominion.
  - j) The debt sin brings:
    - i) Heaven has sued us for damages.
    - ii) We have misused God's intention for us.
    - iii) We are in debt to a holy God.
  - k) The defilement sin brings:
    - i) It is not only what we have done, but it is also what we are.
      - (1) We are sinners by nature.
  - l) The dominion sin brings:
    - i) Sin rules over us.
  - m) The bad news is the following:
    - i) The debt of sin.
    - ii) The defilement of sin.
    - iii) The dominion of sin.
      - (1) It is the Gospel and only the Gospel that has anything to say right about these things.
  - n) 1 Corinthians 15:3
    - i) Paul is not saying that this is the first chronologically.
      - (1) He is saying that it is of prime importance.
      - (2) This is the first thing; this is the major thing.
        - (a) No matter what else we do, if we don't get this, then we have missed it all.
        - (b) It has been said that the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.
          - (i) And the main thing is the Gospel.
            - 1. No matter what else a church does, if it doesn't preach the Gospel, then it has missed the main thing.
  - o) In today's message, we will learn three things about the Gospel as we talk about the purpose of the Lord Jesus' passion, the Gospel truth.
- 2) THE SCRIPTURAL CONTENT OF THE GOSPEL (1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4)
- a) His death deals with the debt that sin has incurred.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 15:3
    - ii) His death was a blood atonement to pay the debt of our sin.
    - iii) Jesus paid it all.
    - iv) Sin is annulled and done away with.
    - v) The penalty and the debt have been taken away.
      - (1) It has been said that He paid a debt He did not owe because I had a debt I could not pay.
  - b) His burial deals with sin's defilement.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

- ii) Jesus was buried so that we would know for certain that He was dead.
- iii) He was buried to show us that He has put our sin in the grave of God's forgetfulness.
  - (1) He put our sin away.
- iv) The power of sin and the pollution of sin are dealt with in the death and burial of Jesus.
- c) His resurrection deals with sin's dominion.
  - i) If all Jesus did was to pay our sin debt and put our sin in the grave, then we would still have us.
    - (1) If He doesn't save us from ourselves, then He hasn't truly saved us.
  - ii) He died for us to give Himself to us.
  - iii) He rose for us.
  - iv) 1 Corinthians 15:4
    - (1) This literally says, "He was raised."
  - v) The world put Jesus on trial.
    - (1) The trial was a mockery of justice.
    - (2) They sentenced Him to death and put Him to death.
  - vi) However, there was a higher court that reversed that decision.
    - (1) Acts 2:23-24
      - (a) They crucified Jesus, but God reversed their decision and raised Him up.
      - (2) Acts 2:36
  - vii) The resurrection of Jesus Christ was God's stamp of approval upon Jesus Christ.
  - viii) Many false messiahs and religious leaders have come, but what is the difference?
    - (1) Buddha lived and died; he is dead.
    - (2) Confucius lived and died; he is dead.
    - (3) Mohammad lived and died; he is dead.
    - (4) Jesus lived and died and rose again.
      - (a) That is the difference.
      - (b) He is a living, risen Savior.
- d) Look at the Scripture carefully:
  - i) The Bible says that Jesus died.
    - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:3
      - (a) In the Greek language, that means it is done once for all.
  - ii) Then, the Bible says that He was buried.
    - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:4
      - (a) In the Greek, that means He was buried once for all.
        - (i) It is done.
        - (ii) It is a finished fact.
  - iii) But then, it says that He is raised.
    - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:4
      - (a) This is in the present tense.

- (i) This means that He was raised, still is raised, and always will be raised.
  - e) Someone may run from the Lord Jesus Christ all of his life.
    - i) But when he dies and is raised in the resurrection, he will meet Jesus face-to-face sitting on the throne.
      - (1) Jesus Christ is the risen Savior.
      - (2) You have a date with Deity.
      - (3) You are going to meet Jesus Christ in salvation, or you are going to meet Him in judgment.
        - (a) But you are going to stand before Jesus Christ.
  - f) Jesus died.
    - i) That is finished.
  - g) Jesus was buried.
    - i) That is finished.
  - h) But Jesus is raised.
    - i) He is alive.
    - ii) He is a risen Savior.
- 3) THE SAVING INTENT OF THE GOSPEL (1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-2)
  - a) We can believe the Gospel and be saved.
    - i) We can do nothing with the Gospel if we don't believe it.
      - (1) The Bible teaches, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."
        - (a) Acts 16:31
        - (2) Romans 1:16
      - ii) There are many dead ends that people try rather than putting their faith in Jesus.
        - (1) The Bible says that there is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
          - (a) Proverbs 14:12
        - (2) Some try sincerity.
          - (a) But they can be sincerely wrong.
          - (b) Sincerity is not enough.
          - (c) There are many sincere people.
          - (d) Many in false cults are sincere.
        - (3) Some try sentiment.
          - (a) They try weeping and tears.
        - (4) Some try service.
          - (a) They are working themselves into the ground on pilgrimages and services.
            - (i) But these cannot save.
        - (5) Some have various kinds of sacraments that they think can save.
          - (a) No priest's craft can save you.

- (6) It is not in sincerity, sentiment, service, or sacrament, but in the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.
    - (a) It is gloriously simple.
    - (b) Acts 16:31
    - (c) It is so simple that some will miss it.
  - b) We can believe the Gospel and be strengthened.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 15:2
      - (1) This is present tense.
      - (2) It literally means that we are being saved.
        - (a) We have been saved from the penalty and the pollution of sin.
        - (b) We are being saved day-by-day from the power of sin.
    - ii) He rose to give Himself to us because He has given Himself for us.
    - iii) Salvation is a crisis when we trust Jesus Christ.
      - (1) But it is a crisis that is followed by a process as He pours His life into us day-by-day.
    - iv) We can't live the Christian life.
      - (1) No one has ever lived the Christian life but Jesus Christ.
        - (a) And He will live it in us and through us.
          - (i) If you trust Jesus Christ, then He will come into your heart.
          - (ii) He will give you a new nature.
  - c) We can believe the Gospel and be secured.
    - i) 1 Corinthians 15:1
    - ii) The glorious thing about the Gospel is that we can be saved.
    - iii) It is even better that we can be saved and know it.
    - iv) It is thrice wonderful that we can be saved, know that we are saved, and know that we can never lose our salvation.
    - v) We stand in the Gospel.
    - vi) We stand amazed and assured because of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
    - vii) He has us in His hand.
      - (1) Some may wonder if it is possible for us to slip through His fingers.
        - (a) We are in His body.
        - (b) For us to perish, a part of Christ would have to perish.
    - viii) It is impossible for a twice-born child of God ever again to be a lost soul.
      - (1) That is the saving intent of the Gospel.
- 4) THE EXTENT OF THE GOSPEL (1 CORINTHIANS 15:1)
- a) Paul was talking to the church at Corinth.
    - i) Everywhere he went, he preached the Gospel.
  - b) The Gospel extends to every person.
    - i) The Gospel is for all.
    - ii) God wants to save all.
    - iii) There is a "whosoever" in the Bible.

- (1) John 3:15-16
- iv) There is no one that God cannot save and will not save who will repent of his or her sin.
- v) What if a person has committed the unpardonable sin?
  - (1) Then, they will not repent.
  - (2) Anybody who wants to be saved can be saved.
- vi) Whosoever will may come.
- c) The Gospel extends to every place.
  - i) There is no special place where we have to be saved.
    - (1) We don't have to be saved in the front of a church.
    - (2) We can be saved on a street corner.
    - (3) We can be saved in an airplane.
  - ii) Some people want to add to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
    - (1) They say that in order to be saved, you have to believe on Jesus and be baptized.
      - (a) And if you're not baptized, then you're not saved.
    - (2) If we make baptism necessary to salvation, then we take the "whosoever" out of the Bible.
      - (a) This takes the good news out of the Gospel.
  - iii) We can say to anyone at anyplace that they can believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and they will be saved.
    - (1) Salvation is completely by grace.
- d) The Gospel extends to every problem.
  - i) There is only one thing that ultimately matters and that is our relationship with God.
  - ii) There is only one truth that has the answer to man's three major problems of sin, sorrow, and death.
    - (1) There is no other message that has an answer to these but the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) The Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- b) We should not be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.
  - i) It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.
    - (1) Romans 1:16
- 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