

THE EPISTLE of PAUL THE APOSTLE

to THE GALATIANS

CHAPTER 1 : 11-24

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-437 MARCH 3, 2002

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“What the Gospel Means to You”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

IS IN FACT A QUESTION:

HOW CAN WE (WHO ARE SINFUL BY NATURE), COME TO GOD (WHO IS HOLY BY NATURE)
WHEN MY SINS HAVE SEPARATED ME FROM GOD AND EVEN DOMINATE MY LIFE?

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Calling, The Gospel, Assurance

WHAT THE GOSPEL MEANS TO YOU

We're learning what it meant to Paul. A man who had excelled in religion and tradition. A man who had such a zeal for what he believed in, that prior to his conversion to Christianity, Paul was commissioned to lead a band of religious police wherever Christians were gathering. He orders them arrested, beaten and even killed.

Acts 7:56-60

And so Stephan said... "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Death of Stephen must have played a great role in bringing Paul to Christ.

When Paul had Heard...

"Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

these were the words of the prophets of old

Then Paul Heard...

As they stoned Stephen - he called upon God saying,
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

These were the words of
Assurance and rest

Then Stephen knelt down and cried out with a loud voice,
"Lord, do not charge them with this sin."
And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

These were the words of
a soul at peace with God

Such An Impact...

Galatians 1:10

"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ."

WHAT THE GOSPEL MEANS TO YOU

1.) *It is a treaty of divine Love*

vv. 11-12

a.) *A Love that is sent from God*

v.11

But I make known to you, brethren,
that the gospel which was preached **by me** is not according to man

The Message of the Gospel is Love

1 John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

b.) *A Love that is personal*

v.12a

For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it,

A Love that is Real in Every Way

c.) *A Love that is manifested in Christ*

v.12b

but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

A Love that can be known

1 Corinthians 13:3-8

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not (jesus) love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love (jesus) suffers long and is kind; (jesus) love does not envy; (Jesus) love does not parade itself, (jesus) is not puffed up; 5 (Jesus) does not behave rudely, (jesus) does not seek its own, (jesus) is not provoked, (jesus) thinks no evil; 6 (jesus) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 (jesus) bears all things, (jesus) believes all things, (jesus) hopes all things, (jesus) endures all things. 8 (jesus) Love never fails...

WHAT THE GOSPEL MEANS TO YOU

2.) *It is a treaty of divine Patience*

vv. 13-14

Paul equates his religious activities - outside of Jesus Christ as being something meaningless and unworthy of a true relationship with God.

a.) *Patient to endure*

v.13

For you have heard of **my former conduct** in Judaism, how **I persecuted** the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

What About Our Former Conduct

b.) *Patient to pursue*

v.14

I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

Why Does God Pursue Us ?

WHAT THE GOSPEL MEANS TO YOU

3.) *It is a treaty of divine Vision*

vv. 15-16a

a.) *God has a divine purpose for you*

v.15

it pleased **God, who separated** me
from my mother's womb and called me through His grace

" God Did the Doing "

it pleased **God, who separated** me

" And God Did it by Grace "

from my mother's womb and called me through His grace

Paul knowing this, dedicated his
new life to fulfill all that God
had for Him with a reckless
abandonment Paul "willed" to
live for God in Everything

He Yielded

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

he was dedicated -
but he needn't not be more than we

Philippians 4:11-13

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 3:3-8

...who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

The Older I Get, the better I see

That all that has ever been in my life, all that is, all that shall be, I have fully been persuaded that God is using for a great work in my life

My Friend, Do You Want Therapy?

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many

Philippians 3:13-15

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind;

YOU CANNOT STOP A PERSON LIKE THIS

Philippians 1:19-21

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

*it has been said, and I agree,
that other than the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there has been
no greater influence on the world than the conversion of Paul.*

b.) God has a divine plan for you

v.16a

16a to reveal His Son in me,
that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,

“ God Did it Through Christ ”

to reveal His Son in me,

This is “How” God the Father, Shows Himself to the World Today

John 14:6-10

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?

Jeremiah 29:11-12

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

“ God Did for the Sake of Others ”

that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,

“God’s Divine Plan
is to Redeem People – *You!*”

WHAT THE GOSPEL MEANS TO YOU

4.) *It is a treaty of divine Assurance*

vv. 16b-17

a.) *Your relationship with God is to be secure*

v.16b

...I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood

What Paul had Received, He Received from God

2 Timothy 3:14

But you must continue in the things which you have learned
and been assured of...

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know
whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have
committed to Him until that Day.

b.) Your relationship with God is not man-dependent v.17

nor did I go up to Jerusalem
to those who were apostles before me

Paul didn't seek man's
endorsement or approval or vote

I HAVE SEEN WELL MEANING PEOPLE
TALK SOMEONE INTO THE MINISTRY

c.) Your relationship with God is like no other v.17

but I went into Arabia, (Jordan &
and returned again unto Damascus.

God was keeping Paul

from outside interruptions while he digested his new life in Christ

“Those Times of Exile in Our Lives”

physical / emotional / spiritual

THOSE TIMES MAKE US THE PEOPLE WE ARE

Philippians 3:7-10

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Suffering Often Brings a Person to Christ

Suffering Develops Those Who Have Come to Christ

WHAT THE GOSPEL MEANS TO YOU

5.) *It is a treaty of divine Glory*

vv. 18-24

a.) *It's a glory not of this world*

v.18-19

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

It was right for him to see Peter

b.) *It's a glory that's at work within us*

v.20-23

(Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.) 21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. 23 But they were hearing only, "**He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.**"

THE LORD IS AT WORK, IN YOU, IN US – *RIGHT NOW!*

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

c.) *It's a glory that brings God the honor*

v.24

...And they glorified God in me.

The Sermon Preached by Actions is Louder Than any Word Spoken

*You and I are Preaching a Message All the
Time*

We're All Preachers

But what are we preaching and to whom?

" God Did It For His Glory "

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 1:27-31

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

"WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL MEAN TO YOU ?

Where are You with The Gospel
/ The Bible / Jesus Christ?

**How is it –
That in every one of us, we have this deep
seated thought of eternity ?**