

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 41

Chapter 15: The Simplicity of the Gospel VS the Complexity of Religion

16 March 2018

Gospel: Glad tidings; especially, the good news concerning Christ, the Kingdom of God, and salvation.

The Gospel: Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Vs 1 The gospel that Paul proclaimed has not changed. It does not need to be modified to fit different cultures and races or different generations and ages. The same gospel that saved men and women of Paul's day still saves men and women of our day.

The gospel must be "**declared**" and "**preached**" clearly so people can understand it and so nobody is left out.

Vs 3 The gospel must be "**received**," not earned, not worked for, not deserved. If you try to earn salvation, you'll never be sure that you have it because you can't possibly know when you've done enough. In the end, you'll find out that no amount of good works or abstaining from evil works can save you (Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5).

If you simply receive salvation as a free gift from God, you can know for certain that you have eternal life because God provided it for you while you were a sinner (Rom 5:8).

"**Christ died FOR (!) our sins.**" You can try to do "**for**" God, and you'll die and go to Hell. OR, you can let God do "**for**" you, and be certain that you'll go to Heaven. Jesus Christ died to pay for your sins. If you will believe that and receive Him as your Savior, you can have eternal life this very moment.

"**Christ died for our sins.**" This includes what we do (verb) and what we are (noun). I AM a sinner (noun) who sins (verb). Religion can help me reduce the number of sins that I commit, but since I am a sinner, the problem will always plague me. Only Jesus Christ can pay for sins and redeem the sinner. Religion can reform a person somewhat, but it can't fix what you are.

Jesus Christ was "**without sin**" (Hebrews 4:15). Not only did He never commit any sins (verb), but he was not a sinner (noun). That is why His sacrifice on Calvary's cross was received by God the Father as an acceptable payment for our sins (Romans 3:25, 1 John 2:2).

Jesus Christ is not a religion. He is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, who died for our sins.

Vs 4 Jesus Christ "**was buried.**" All religious leaders died and were buried, but only one "**rose again.**"

ACTS 20:18-24

20-21 Paul testified to the Jews and to the Greeks: Publicly and from house to house.

Vs 21 Paul preached repentance toward God: acknowledging that you are a sinner before a Holy God. Turning from your sin and turning toward God.

Vs 22 Faith toward Christ: (vs 22) acknowledging that only Jesus Christ can save your soul from Hell.

Vs 24 The **“Gospel of the Grace of God:”** Grace is an undeserved, unearned, unmerited bestowing of good things. Christ did not die for *“worthy”* people because nobody is worthy. Nobody is good (Psalm 53:1, Romans 3:12). There are no righteous people (Romans 3:10, Isaiah 64:6). Christ died for sinners (Rom 5:8, 1 Tim 1:15). Christ freely gives the gift of eternal life to sinners who will believe Him and receive Him as their personal Savior, even though they don’t deserve it; that is grace.

Religion cancels the “grace” aspect of the Gospel by placing demands and requirements on you that are not part of the gospel.

ROMANS 2:16, 16:25 “MY GOSPEL.”

The Gospel does not belong to a religion or a denomination. It is personal. Yes, Christ died for OUR sins, but I’m glad Christ died for MY sins.

The Gospel has the power to **“stablish”** you (16:25) (to settle permanently, to make firm) so that you will not want to turn back to your life of sin. When you walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, your desire will be to stay away from sin so you can keep walking with Him.

Your sins will be judged **“by Jesus Christ”** (2:16). Your sins will not be compared to other people and their sins. You will be judged according to how you measure up to Jesus Christ and His righteousness. The only way you can “measure up” is to receive His righteousness (Rom 4:6). You must “believe unto righteousness” (Rom 10:10). Every attempt to attain righteousness through religion will **“come short of the glory of God”** (Rom 3:23).

You will be judged according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ died for you, was buried, and on the third day rose from the dead. Will you trust him—or will you reject Him? The choice is yours.
