



*Here We Stand Series: Part 4: The Gospel, Romans 1:16
Mike Halpin ~ October 5, 2014*

We're in week 4 of our 6 week series called, Here We Stand in which we're highlighting both doctrinal and functional elements that are part and parcel of who and what Lion & Lamb Church is.

"A Gospel Primer" at the Information Table at reduced rate.

"Gospel" from Old English/Anglo Saxon— good spell, or good news.
NT Greek term, *euangelion*— good message; 77X in NT.

Working definition for our discussion this morning:

The Gospel— God's eternal plan to glorify Himself by redeeming sinful humans through the life, death, resurrection and rule of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel— God the Father, acting for glory of the Triune God, and on our behalf, sent God the Son to the earth to become one of us in the Incarnation. Jesus, the Son, lived a sinless life and was voluntarily crucified by men according to the predetermined will of God, to bear the penalty of the sins of the world. The Holy Spirit, in concert with the Father and the Son, raised Jesus from among the dead, sin and death being conquered in His willing sacrifice and subsequent resurrection. Since the resurrection forgiveness of sins and eternal life are offered to all who will accept the free gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. Having received that forgiveness and new life, the redeemed enter God's Kingdom and family and begin a new life that will eventually usher them into God's presence and the full expression of God's eternal kingdom.

We'll look at the gospel from several different vantage points this morning:

1. The gospel is God's eternal plan to demonstrate the excellences of His own glory.
2. The gospel is all about a person, not just a message.
3. The good news of the gospel assumes bad news.
4. The gospel is about what God has done for our past, our present, and our future.
5. The gospel makes demands of us.
6. We can, and should communicate the gospel w/ confidence.
7. The claims of the gospel are exclusive.

1. The Gospel is God's eternal plan to demonstrate the excellences of His own glory.

Ephesians 1:3-4, 11 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Ephesians 1:11 In him (*Christ*) we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...

Ephesians 3:11 *in referring to the mystery of the Church*.... This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

The *proto evangelion*—

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Hebrews 2:14-15 through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

1 John 3:8.... The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

God demonstrates His glories—

Romans 9:23 (*God patiently endured vessels of wrath*) in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

Ephesians 1:5, 12-13 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace...

12 ...we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 ... (you) were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 2:4-7 (*God acted in mercy, love and grace when we were spiritually dead, seating us w/ Christ even now in heaven...*) 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Revelation 5:12-14 (*the myriads of angels, the four living creatures from around God's throne and the Elders in heaven.....*)

12 saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever! 14 And the four living creatures said, Amen! and the elders fell down and worshiped.

2. The Gospel is About a Person—

John 14:6 I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Colossians 1:15-16 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things were created through him and for him.

3. The gospel/good news assumes there's bad news in need of this good news message—

Romans 3:10-12 as it is written: None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

4. The gospel is about what God has done with my past, my present and my future—

Romans 5:8 God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4-10 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, (God) made us alive together with Christ—by (God's) grace you have been saved— 6 and (God) raised us up with him and (God) seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by (God's) grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of (our) works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

God justified us: Justified= to be brought into right standing before God.

Romans 3:24 (we) are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith....

Romans 8:33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

God sanctified us: Sanctified = to be set apart for God.

1st Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.....

1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption

6:11 But you were washed ,you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God

God glorifies us: Glorified = to share Christ's new creation status and honor.

Matthew 13:43 The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father

2nd Thessalonians 2:14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<u>Past</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Future</u>
Jesus died for my sins	Jesus reigns from heaven	Jesus is coming again
(My) Sins forgiven	I'm free of sin's power	I'll be free from sin's presence
Slave to sin	slave to righteousness	without fault
Followed god of world	A son/daughter of God	A ruler over New heavens/earth
Chosen in Christ	Set free by the Spirit	In my Father's house/Jesus' Kingdom

5. The gospel makes demands of us—

The gospel ISN'T JUST that my sins are forgiven and I'm not going to hell. The gospel is also God reaching down from heaven, in Christ and by His Spirit, and picking us up and saying, "You're mine".

Romans 12:1 Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

2nd Corinthians 10:5 ...take every thought captive to obey Christ

1st Peter 1:14-16 as obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

6. The Gospel can, and should be, communicated w/ confidence—

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to all who believe, to the Jew first and also to the Greek (*Gentile*).

Mark 8: 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of Him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,

1st Corinthians 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

7. The Gospel is Exclusive—

If John 14:6 is true.....

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Only Jesus could pay for the awful weight of our sin. Only Jesus offers hope for the world.

Close—

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life...

John 5:24 Truly, truly I say to you he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.

John 20:31 these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His Name.

Romans 3:28 we maintain that a man is justified by faith, apart from works of the Law

Galatians 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law, since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.