

THE GOSPEL

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...”

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Let me ask you a question... today... right now... do you know for sure that you are a Christian... do you know for sure that you are saved ... do you know for sure that you are right with God... that you will go to Heaven when you die?
- b. The Bible says that we can know for sure... *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).*
- c. Today I want to share the gospel with you in this way ... God’s Purpose... Our Problem... God’s Provision... Our Response.

II. GOD’S PURPOSE- THE GOOD NEWS!

- a. John 3:16... the best known verse in the Bible... has some good news... *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16).*
- b. The good news is that God loves you... and God wants you to have eternal life.
- c. Eternal life is a life that comes from God... it is a life lived in connection with God.
- d. Eternal life does not begin when a person dies... it begins the moment a person gives their life to Jesus Christ.
- e. Eternal life means... that we can have a full and meaningful life in this world right now.
- f. We can have a life of joy, contentment and peace... and victory over Satan and sin and the troubles of this world.

- g. Jesus said in John 10:10... *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*
- h. Eternal life also means that when we die... we will spend eternity with Jesus in heaven... *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3).*
- i. Eternal life cannot be earned or deserved...it can only be received ... *“The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).*

God’s Purpose

III. OUR PROBLEM- THE BAD NEWS!

- a. But we all have a problem that has to be solved before we can receive the eternal life that God desires us to have...that is the problem of our sin.
- b. No one likes to admit that they are sinner... but we all are... the truth is we have all chosen to break the laws, commandments and the standards of God many times over.
- c. Sin may have its joy... but the joy of sin will not last.
- d. Sin has consequences... and unless our sins are forgiven... those consequences will last for eternity.
- e. When God created the universe... He embedded into His creation the laws of science and physics to govern His physical creation.
- f. And He also embedded moral and spiritual laws... which govern the spiritual nature world of His creation.
- g. The physical and moral laws of God are good... they reflect God’s holy and good nature... and they are for our good... we are blessed and protected if we obey God’s good laws.

- h. For instance... the law of gravity is a good law... it is for our protection... if it was not for the law of gravity... we would go flying off into space.
- i. But if you chose to ignore the law of gravity... if you decide to go to the top of this building and jump off... you will not go up... you will go down... and you will pay a price.
- j. In the same way... if you chose to break one of the moral and spiritual laws of God... which are found in His Word... laws that reflect His goodness and holiness... laws that are for our good ... you will pay a price.
- k. People today treat sin as if it is a joke... they treat sin as if it is no big deal ... but no one can sin... and just forget about it... as if they have done nothing wrong.
- l. That may be what people do in the movies... but that is not how sin works in real life... sin has its consequences.
- m. We are free to make your own choices... we are free to ignore and break the laws of God ... we are free to leave God out of our life... but we are not free to choose the consequences of your action.
- n. If you chose to ignore God and break His laws... you will pay a price.
- o. Sin is a destroyer... it will destroy us emotionally... mentally ... physically... and spiritually... sin will destroy us in this world... and sin will destroy us for eternity... there is nothing funny about sin.
- p. The greatest consequence of sin is that it separates us from a holy God... in this world and in eternity.
- q. *“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)... “For the wages of sin is death (eternal separation from God)” (Rom. 6:23).*

- r. The bad news gets worse...not only are we separated from God because of our sins...there is nothing we can do...by our own power and effort...to save ourselves from the punishment of sin ...
“(Salvation is) Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:9).

God's Purpose... Our Problem

IV. GOD'S PROVISION-

- a. The good news is that in spite of our sin... God still loves us.
- b. And God has provided a way that we can be forever saved from the eternal consequence and penalty of our sin ... He has provided a way that we can be reconciled to Him...and we can receive the gift of eternal life.
- c. God has provided that way through the Lord Jesus Christ... *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).*
- d. Jesus is God... who through the miracle of the incarnation and virgin birth...became a man... *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:1,14).*
- e. When Jesus came into this world He lived a perfect life... which qualified Him to be a sacrifice for our sins... to take our place... and take all of our sins upon Himself as if He had committed every one of them.
- f. *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God” (1 Pet. 3:18).*
- g. When Jesus was on the cross... God laid on Him all of our sin and guilt... and Jesus died for our sin.
- h. *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6)*

- i. On the third day after He died on the cross... Jesus arose from the dead.
- j. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead proved that His death on the cross was accepted by God as payment for our sin... *“(Jesus) was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:25).*

God's Purpose... Our Problem... God's Provision

V. **OUR RESPONSE-**

- a. To receive the salvation that Jesus has provided through His death and resurrection...we must receive Him... as our Savior and Lord.
- b. *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12).*
- c. To receive Christ we first must repent of our sin... *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19). “Repent and turn to God, and do works [which give evidence of] repentance” (Acts 26:20).*
- d. Repentance is a recognition of the evilness of our sin... repentance means coming to God and confessing to Him that we are sinners...it means asking God to forgive us of our sin...it means seeking God's help to turn away from sin in our life.
- e. Second, we must place our faith in Jesus... *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).*
- f. Faith is believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God... who died on the cross for our sins.
- g. Faith is asking and trusting in Jesus... to save us from the penalty of our sin.
- h. Third, to be saved we must surrender our lives to Jesus... to receive Him not only as our Savior but also the Lord of our life.

- i. *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom.10:9-10).*
- j. Surrendering to Jesus as Lord...means giving Jesus control of our lives.
- k. One of the first evidences that we have given Jesus control of our life ...is by publically confessing our faith in Him to our family, friends and to the church...and joining a local church...and being baptized.

VI. CONCLUSION-

- a. Is there any reason you would not be willing to receive God’s gift of eternal life? ... Are you willing to turn from your sin and place your faith in Jesus right now?
- b. The Bible says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved: (Rom. 10:13).*
- c. Prayer of Repentance and Faith in Christ- *"Oh, God, I'm a sinner, I'm lost, and I need to be saved. I know I can't save myself, so right now, once and for all, I trust You Lord Jesus to save me. I believe you died on the cross and rose again to pay the penalty of my sin. Please come into my heart, forgive my sin, and make me Your child. I give You my life and receive you as my Lord. From this day forward I will love You and live for You as You give me strength."*