

The Gospel Of Christ

No. 47

Introduction.

- I. One of the greatest men who has ever lived was the apostle Paul. He devoted his entire life to Christ and to the proclamation of the gospel of Christ.
 - A. He could truthfully say. (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21; Gal. 6:14).
 - B. Because of his Christlikeness and his bold, courageous preaching of the gospel, he was spit on, mocked, stoned and persecuted in other ways.

2CO 11:24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

2CO 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

2CO 11:26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

2CO 11:27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2CO 11:28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.

- C. Despite all of these sufferings and hardships, Paul boldly exclaimed in the great Roman epistle. (Rom. 1:14-16).
 1. Paul declared he was not ashamed of the gospel.
 2. He was proud to suffer because of the good news he proclaimed to the world.
- II. We should also be able to say with Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel." There are at least five reasons why we should not be ashamed of the gospel, which is also called the "gospel of Christ" "and the gospel of God."
 - I. **Glorious Author** - We should not be ashamed of the glorious author of the gospel , the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - A. **A farmer and his wife sent their son to a university**, where he fell in with a group of snobbish students. One day the father felt he could go no longer without seeing his son. So he said, "Mother, I want to see our boy. I am going to ride over to the university and see him." He arrived at the campus in late afternoon. Suddenly he saw his son coming down the street with two other students. The old farmer, dressed in overalls, hurried to meet his son. As he started to throw his arms around the boy, the foolish, ungrateful son said, "I don't know you, sir." Then the boy turned his back upon his father and went away with the other students. The broken-hearted father made his way home in sorrow. This boy

was ashamed of his father, and there are many who are ashamed of Jesus today.

B. He was in the little town of Bethlehem in a feeding trough. His parents were poor and he grew up in the despised city of Nazareth. He did not attend the special schools of His day. He did not run with the elite. He died on a cross. He was placed in a borrowed tomb. Yes, some are ashamed of Jesus, but not the Christian.

C. **Jesus is the Son of God, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the fairest of ten thousand.**

1. He is the **Light of the world**, He is the **Great Shepherd** of the sheep.

2. He is the **answer** to every question, the **solution** to every problem, the **explanation** of every mystery. He is the One who was and is and is to be. He is the High and Holy One. He is the **Lamb slain** from the foundation of the world. He is the One who died on the cross for all men.

3. He is the One who rose again, ascended into heaven and who now sits at the right hand of God. He is the One who is coming again to judge all men and lead His followers back to the eternal kingdom in heaven. No, we should not be ashamed of Him.

II. **Glorious Message** - We should not be ashamed of the glorious message of the gospel.

A. There are some who say saying that the gospel is “old-fashion” and we need “a new gospel for a new age.”

1. This is utter, absolute nonsense! The gospel of Christ is not “old-fashion.” We do not need “a new gospel.”

2. The gospel contains “all things that pertain to life and godliness” and meets every need of modern man.

B. **Modern man has sinned and stands in need of a Savior.** The gospel tell man how to find that Savior.

1. Man needs **purpose** in life. The gospel tells man how to find this purpose in Christ Jesus.

2. Man needs **comfort and strength**. The gospel tells man how to find comfort and strength in life, in death, and in eternity

3. Man needs to know how to have **peace** within himself and with others. The gospel meets this great need and every other need of man.

4. The gospel is all-sufficient and is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. (Psa. 119:105).

5. Paul said. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:3).

III. **Glorious Fruit** - We should not be ashamed to the glorious fruit of the gospel.

A. The gospel has great power.

1. “It is the power of God unto salvation.”

2. **A good illustration of power are the spacecrafts that have gone to the moon.** Take for example Apollo 11 which landed on the moon in 1969. Apollo 11 was **363 feet tall** which is about the size of a **36** story building. It weighed **6.2 million pounds** and it took 6.6 million pounds of thrust just to get it off the launching pad. In the first 10 seconds of its flight it burned 4 million gallons of fuel which is enough to run 1 million car for an average day. During the flight it traveled as high as 24,600 miles per hour which is nearly 7 miles per second. At that speed Apollo 11 could travel around the world in about one hour. At that speed it could travel from Waco to Houston and back here again in less than 1 minute. At that speed it could travel from this building to the circle and back in less than ½ second.

- a. That's really power! It is power beyond the comprehension and imagination of most of us!
- b. But I submit to you that the gospel of Christ is far more powerful than a 1,000 (or even a million) such spacecrafts. It has the power to crush the hearts of men and transform their lives into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

B. The greatest lives in the world have been produced by the gospel.

1. **Paul** was the chief of sinners, but the gospel made him the chief of saints. **Peter** was a cursing fisherman, but the gospel made him a mighty preacher. **John** was the son of thunder, but the gospel made him an apostle of love. The gospel changed the lives of these men and it had changed the lives of millions of others through the years.
2. Once I read about an **atheistic lecturer** who concluded his talk by saying, "I tell you Jesus Christ is a myth." A miner who had come to the meeting in his grimy clothes, stood up and said, "I'm only a working man. I don't know what you mean by the word "myth." But can you explain me? Three years ago I had a miserable home. I neglected my wife and children. I cursed and swore. I drank up all my wages. Then someone came along and told me of the love of God, and of the deliverance from the shackles of sin by turning to Christ. Now all is different! We have a happy home. A new power has taken possession of me since Christ came into my life. Sir, can you explain me?" The atheist had no reply.
3. Yes, the gospel of Christ has great power and is able to save and change the souls of men.

IV. Glorious Goal - We should not be ashamed of the glorious goal of the gospel.

- A. Its purpose is to transform our lives into the likeness of Christ that we might have a home in heaven where we will be with God forever and ever. Listen to John's description of the home of the soul. (Rev. 21:1-7)

21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them,

21:4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. "

21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

21:6 And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple.

21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

21:24 And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.

21:25 And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed;

21:26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;

21:27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- B. Beloved, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into this world in obscurity and sought to win us. Now He offers us a cross to bear and much tribulation. But if we accept the glorious gospel we become a part of His bride, and some day He'll take us to the Royal City where there are no tears, no death, no pain and we will enjoy His glory forever.

V. **Glorious Invitation** - Finally, we should not be ashamed of the glorious invitation of the gospel.

- A. The invitation of Christ is not extended just to good men nor is it extended merely to the rich and famous.
- B. The invitation of Christ is extended to the poor, the weak, the lame, and all who are heavy laden with sin. Jesus says. (Matt. 11:28-30).

Conclusion.

I. **Years ago a Chinese man said, "I knocked on the door of Buddha, and all that heard was the hollow of the tomb. I knocked at the door of Mohammed, but there was no answer. I knocked at the door of Confucius, but the dust of the centuries was gathered upon his tomb and there was no answer. Then I knocked at the door of Jesus Christ and found Him to be alive. He came to the door, He invited me in, He saved me and set my heart rejoicing, and my feet on the road to glory."**

II. Beloved, that's the Savior of the gospel.

- A. Jesus Christ is alive. He's reigning on His throne. He is pleading with you to come to him.
- B. If you will accept Him, He will forgive your sins and set your feet on the road to glory. Open your heart to him today and come confessing your faith in Him and then be buried with Him in baptism,

coming forth to walk in His footsteps. Come as we sing!

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