

GETTING THE GOSPEL RIGHT

“To the Praise of His Glory”

Scripture Reading: EPHESIANS 1:13-14

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8.** Today we continue in our sermon series “*GETTING THE GOSPEL RIGHT.*” And I have titled today’s message “*To the Praise of His Glory*” (1:14).
-) Last week in our first message in this series, we learned from the words of Jesus in MATT 7 that not everyone makes it into the kingdom of heaven. The reality is that only few make it into the kingdom of heaven. Many find the road to destruction and many of those will be people who believe they are right with Jesus Christ.
-) So, where did these “*many*” go wrong? The answer is simple. They did not get the gospel right. Adding to or subtracting from the true gospel, or concocting a gospel from your own imagination or religious belief system cannot and will not save anyone.
-) **SLIDE 9.** May I remind all of us what the apostle Paul said in the first chapter of GALATIANS. GAL 1:8-9. We spent 47 weeks drilling this truth home.
-) So my mission in this short series is to explain to you the true gospel. And I better get it right. Let’s search the Scriptures and see what the Word of God teaches us about the gospel.
-) **SLIDE 10.** The gospel can only be found in the **BIBLE**, the Word of God. The gospel cannot be found in any other religious book such as the Koran, the Book of Mormon, or in any other religious faiths, writings, or church traditions.

-) Perhaps you have shared your testimony of how you came to Christ with an unbeliever. But your (my) testimony is not the gospel. Our testimony is the result of the gospel. Explain.
-) The word gospel means good news. And we have four books in our Bibles that we call gospels. These four books contain the good news about the most important person ever to walk on planet earth (Jesus of Nazareth) and the good news about the important events that surround His life, His words, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension.
-) **SLIDE 11.** The gospel is the message of who Jesus **IS**, what Jesus **SAID**, and what Jesus **ACCOMPLISHED**. And when you combine those three, it IS good news!
-) **SLIDE 12.** ROM 1:16. So, if the gospel is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, then for a person to have an opportunity to be saved, he or she must hear, believe, understand and trust who Jesus is, what Jesus said, and what Jesus accomplished.
-) Eight times in the Book of ACTS we are told that people such as Phillip, Paul, Barnabas, and Peter were preaching the gospel. And we see that there are men and women being saved by what they heard. We can conclude that in their preaching they included the facts about who Jesus is, what Jesus said, and what Jesus accomplished.
-) **SLIDE 13.** We can also conclude that the gospel is not just one **FACT** about Jesus. The gospel is an accumulation of many facts about Jesus. In other words, we cannot say that the death of Jesus Christ on the cross is the gospel. Yes, it is one of many facts about the gospel that must be believed. But that one fact of His crucifixion is not the entire gospel.
-) **SLIDE 14.** We can also conclude that the gospel is not found in one **VERSE** of the Bible. JOHN 3:16 is very important, but JOHN 3:16 is not the entire gospel.

-) **SLIDE 15.** The gospel is entirely **CHRIST**-centered and never **MAN**-centered. I want to spend the remainder of our time this morning focused here. Although the good news of the gospel has brought a wonderful salvation to every Christian, the gospel is not about me and it's not about you.
-) But Mike, how can you say the gospel is not about me? I have eternal life because of the gospel. And isn't the Book of ACTS about the proliferation of the gospel leading to the salvation of people like the Ethiopian eunuch, and Lydia from Thyatira, and the Philippian jailer? The gospel is about the salvation of people.
-) **SLIDE 16.** EPHESIANS 1:13-14. What do we see in these 2 verses? Explain the man-centered things.
-) **SLIDE 17.** But why have we received all of that? Six words. EPHESIANS 1:13-14. To the praise of His glory. Listen. There is a plan of salvation for sinners like us. But we are simply the fortunate recipients of that plan from a God who wants to bring glory to His name.
-) Well that sounds pretty self-centered. Folks, the last thing I would want to do is to call God self-centered. God doesn't do something because it is right. It is right because God does it.
-) Let's all learn a little OT history. We all know that the Israelites were so rebellious and idolatrous that the Lord dispersed them to foreign nations. The northern kingdom of Israel dispersed was in 720BC to Assyria, and the southern kingdom of Judah was dispersed in 586BC to Babylon.
-) **SLIDE 18.** These are the words of the Lord through the prophet Ezekiel concerning this dispersion. EZE 36:19-20. It's as if the Israelites, who are now exiled and in foreign lands, were now saying, "*What kind of God do we serve that would disperse His own people like this?*" They were profaning the holy name of God.

-) **SLIDE 19.** EZEKIEL 36:21. God's concern was for what? The people? Not exactly. His concern was for His holy name.
-) **SLIDE 20.** EZEKIEL 36:22. What is God about to do and why? He will act (in some way) to uphold His holy name.
-) **SLIDE 21.** EZEKIEL 36:23. God will make known the holiness of His name.
-) God says that He is going to act. What is God about to do for His people the Israelites? Let's continue reading.
-) **SLIDE 22.** EZEKIEL 36:24-25.
-) **SLIDE 23.** EZEKIEL 36:26-27.
-) **SLIDE 24.** EZEKIEL 36:28-29.
-) **SLIDE 25.** EZEKIEL 36:30-31.
-) **SLIDE 26.** List. Here's what God will do for His people.
-) **SLIDE 27.** Why is God doing all these wonderful things for Israel? Didn't He just disperse them—some to Assyria and some to Babylon because of their idolatry? Here's why He's not doing these wonderful things. EZE 36:32.
-) **SLIDE 28.** EZEKIEL 36:23. The bottom line is that God is doing all these wonderful things for those idolatrous Israelites for His glory and His holy name.
-) **SLIDE 29.** I hope we can see the parallels between what God did for Israel and what God is doing for the believer. Let me put that list up here again and change a few words around.
-) **SLIDE 30.** Folks, we are just as rebellious and idolatrous as the Israelites. Why would God want to save any of us? For the same reason He saved the Israelites. EPHESIANS 1:13-14.
-) God will prove Himself faithful and powerful. He will prove Himself to be the God of all gods, the Lord of all lords, and the King of all kings. God will not be mocked.

-) And because He will vindicate the holiness of His great name (v23), we are the fortunate beneficiaries. He brought the Israelites back home, and He will bring His own, the church, back home too. And that, my friends, is the good news!
-) He wants to show the world His power and His majesty and He is going to use the salvation of sinners like us to do that. And He doesn't do it because we are worthy of it. He doesn't grant us salvation because of us, He grants us salvation despite us.
-) Time and time again God called Israel an obstinate and stiff-necked people, yet time and time again He would take care of them. Why? Because He is a God of promise. He is a God who keeps His Word. He is a God who deserves honor, praise, and glory from extremely fortunate people like us.
-) **SLIDE 31**. Here at BGCC, I preach and teach reformed theology. That is the theology as established by the reformers back in the 16th century. The reformers developed five solas (which means alone). Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Christus, Sola Scriptura, and Sola Deo Gloria.
-) God spoke those words through the prophet Ezekiel 2600 years ago. Paul had it right 2000 years ago. The reformers had it right 500 years ago. We need to get it right today.
-) So, the next time we think the gospel is only about saving people like us, we need to understand what the Bible is clearly teaching. The purpose of the good news gospel is all about God and His holy name and His glory. So, if I boast, I boast in the Lord! Look what the Lord has done in me! Praise His holy name!

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