

THE GOSPEL IS...

WILLIS 1/15/12

1Cor15:1-8

When it comes to experiencing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ definitions are everything. So last week we said **if the Gospel is the primary delivery system of the Good News then it is essential that we have an accurate understanding of what the Gospel is.**

- To help us with that understanding we showed a video last week entitled the Gospel by Eric Ludy. Today I want to show another video that defines the Gospel from a bit of a different perspective. This is G.O.S.P.E.L. by Propaganda

1Cor15:1-8 taken from our text this morning we said **“The Gospel is the death, burial, resurrection and appearances of the Lord Jesus Christ.”** That would include their historic reality and their daily application.

- We have this basic problem...it is called SIN. Rm3:23 tells us, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Rm6:23 goes on to say, “The wages of sin is death...”so to fix the problem of sin the righteousness of God required someone without sin to die.
- **In the face of the just demand of God, the Gospel say’s Jesus died. To prove He was dead, the Gospel say’s Jesus was buried. To guarantee His death paid the price of sins wage, the Gospel say’s Jesus was resurrected.**
- Then to verify its validity, the Gospel say’s Jesus appeared 6 times after His death, burial and resurrection to more than 520 people.
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not philosophical advice to a misled world or a moral improvement program to a degenerate people; the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a divine rescue; the Gospel is the redemptive deliverance of a cosmos incapable of saving itself.

Dr. Tim Keller said it well when he said, **“The Gospel is news about what God has already done for you rather than instruction and advice about what you are to do for God...”**

- The Gospel is not the Good News of human attainment it is the Good News of Divine accomplishment. The news is already good because of what Jesus did not hoping to be good in light of what we might do

Last week we spoke to the issues of Christ's Death and His Burial...both their historic reality and their daily application. So today we want to take up the final 2 points of the Gospel, His Resurrection and His Appearances.

- These 4 factors are the essence of the Gospel and the assurance of the Good News.

3. The Resurrection: The Gospel is...Jesus Christ Raised. If Christ is not raised Paul say's our faith is in vain. If Christ is not raised then our faith is worthless and we are still in our sins. But if He is raised then we can expect to be raised whenever we find ourselves under.

- **The Resurrection is the guarantee of the Gospel. Without the guarantee we are reduced to vanity and worthlessness but with the guarantee we are elevated to Good News and power.** With the guarantee His Resurrection becomes ours.
- Though the Cross confirmed the Good News and the power, it didn't necessarily guarantee it. A phone call will confirm a reservation but it isn't guaranteed until you submit the credit card...through the Resurrection Jesus submitted the credit card.
- **What the Cross confirmed the Resurrection guaranteed.** In being the guarantee the Resurrection also substantiated all future hope. In the guarantee of the Resurrection we are raised from vanity and worthlessness to absolute hope and promise.
- One of the primary factors that makes the Good News good is the hope we find in the promise of the resurrection. Paul says it well in v.20, he say's "But now Christ has been raised as the first fruits..."
- Christ's Resurrection was the guarantee that secured the promise and the power for our resurrection...both historically and situationally. In the promise and the power we are free to believe we will be raised on the final day and in the daily circumstance.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was the vindicating accomplishment that guaranteed every promise of salvation, every claim of atonement, every act of redemption and every need of reconciliation.

- Christianity stands and falls on the empty grave. Just as in Adam all sinned so in Christ all will be made alive.

4. The Appearances: The Gospel is...Jesus Christ Appeared. Why mention the death, burial and resurrection once then mention the appearances 6 times? It's because the appearances are what gave credibility to the Gospel. The Resurrection had over 500 eye witnesses to verify it.

- **The Cross validates the Good News**
- **The Burial proves the Good News**
- **The Resurrection guarantees the Good News**
- **The Appearances verify the Good News**

Jesus wasn't crucified, buried and raised then whisked away for all to speculate. Acts 1:3 tells us He hung around for 40 days after His Resurrection appearing to over 500 people and speaking to them concerning the things of the Kingdom of God.

In other words, His Resurrection wasn't hard to verify. If you wanted to know if it was true or not you had 40 days to go and see...and over 500 did. Appearing to 500+ verified Jesus Christ was the real deal.

- **He said He would be crucified and He was. He said He would be dead and buried and He was. He said he would be raised on the third day and He was. Then to verify it all, He hung around for 40 days for all to see.**
- And if that weren't verification enough the Scriptures say "While all looked on, He was lifted up and a cloud took Him out of sight..." He ascended for all to see.

The Ascension was the crowning act as if to say, if you really didn't believe He died...if you really aren't convinced he was buried and rose on the third day...then watch this...how do you explain that if all the rest wasn't true?

- In the Crucifixion the check was written
- In the Resurrection the check cleared
- In the Appearances the check was being spent
- In the Ascension new checks were given to all...ep 4:8 "when He ascended into heaven He led captivity captive and gave gifts to all."

Validated, proven, guaranteed and verified...as if that weren't enough Jesus ascended for all to see. The Ascension of Jesus Christ sealed the Good News.

No wonder Jesus called the Gospel Good News. He validated it, proved it, guaranteed it, verified it and sealed it...then freely gave it away. Those who receive it the Bible says are saved. "If we confess with our mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart God raised Him from the dead...we will be saved.