

The Gospel; Romans 8:1-11

I. Gospel

- A. This Greek word is where we get the English word Evangelist
- B. The Greek word means, "to announce good news, to bring glad tidings"
- C. The word "gospel" originated in the Old English
- D. It is a word-for-word translation from the Greek to Old English - godspell
 - 1. god meaning... good
 - 2. spell meaning message
- E. So the Gospel of Jesus is to announce good news, or bring glad tidings of Jesus
- F. There are many who would argue the the "pure" gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and that is all we should teach
- G. Others would argue (and I am one of them) that the gospel encompasses the teachings of the apostles and prophets as well, and therefore we should teach them too
- H. We commonly refer to the first four books of the New Testament as "The Gospels" further confusing the meaning
 - 1. Literary experts could not figure which literary style to place the first four books of the New Testament
 - 2. So they made a new one... Gospels
- I. But if we were to try to encapsulate the glad tidings of Christ into one sentence, Paul sums it up pretty well
 - 1. Romans 8:1; There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

II. No Condemnation

- A. Therefore - what came before
 - 1. The Law taught us sin
 - 2. The Law condemns those who violate it
 - 3. People under the Law of Moses stood condemned until they offered their sacrifice at the altar (through faith)
 - 4. Exodus 34:5-9; ⁵ The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶ The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹ And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."
- B. For every sin committed, a sacrifice was required
 - 1. Leviticus 4:35; And all its fat he shall remove as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings, and the priest shall burn it on the altar, on top of the Lord's food offerings. And the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has committed, and he shall be forgiven.

C. Each sin was forgiven, individually, and after each sacrifice was completed

D. But the Law was not the problem

1. Hebrews 7:18-19; ¹⁸ For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

E. The weakness was not in the Law, but in mankind

1. Romans 8:3-4; ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

F. You see, after each sin, you stood condemned by the law for the violation

G. So this really was "good news" or "glad tidings" that Paul was bringing

1. No longer did the law condemn you
2. You were Justified by the sacrifice of Christ
3. You had to be "in Christ Jesus"
4. Romans 8:31-34; ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

H. As long as we are in Christ Jesus, there is no law that can condemn us

I. We stand justified before God having been cleansed by the sacrificial blood of His son Jesus

III. Life and Death

A. Romans 8:5-8; ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

B. This is a life and death situation!

C. Flesh verses Spirit

1. This is our primary problem today, flesh verses spirit
2. We desire to gratify our flesh and ignore the spirit
3. But it is our flesh that decays and vanishes away
 - a) Paul reminds them of the "glad tidings," the gospel that he gave them in 1 Corinthians 15:1
 - b) ⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
4. But it is the flesh that we spend the majority (if not all) of our time worrying about, trying to satisfy

D. The flesh will die and be no longer

E. The spirit will rise and live forever

F. Which one should we be spending more time with (or on)?

1. Galatians 6:7-8; ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

2. This can seem like a very harsh statement, but only by those who are seeking to please the flesh

G. The Gospel is a life and death situation

1. Those who choose to accept the "glad tidings" receive eternal life

2. Those who reject the "good news" receive eternal death

IV. Submit!

A. Hostile to God

1. James 4:4-10; ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

B. Submitting to God means getting rid of the things of this world

C. Drawing near to God means getting further away from the things in this world

D. Paul is speaking to the Christians in Rome, they have the Spirit, they are no longer under the Mosaic Law

E. There is no condemnation for those who submit to God

1. Submit - to place or rank under, put in subjection, to obey

2. We must accept God's authority and submit to, be subject to, obey Him

3. Because the glad tidings, good news is that by submitting ourselves to Him, we are no longer condemned

V. The Gospel

A. Make no mistake, this is a life and death decision!

B. Submit yourself to God and His glad tidings

C. And you will no longer be condemned