

God Is Faithful: The Gospel

As we finished Ruth we saw a picture of a faithful God who pursues us, provides for us and redeems us- delivers from our slavery. We saw in the life of Boaz (an ordinary man) a picture of Christ. What we saw was a picture of the Gospel in action. And as we continue in seeing the faithfulness of God I do not want us to miss God's faithfulness to His children in giving us the Gospel. Not only for our salvation but also as the tool for us to be used by God to share the "good news" to a lost and dying world. Next week many of us will be serving others in a variety of different ways but we must remember that although people may need tangible things like housing, clothes, money, fellowship and friendship, what we all need is to be reconciled with a Holy God so that He can provide all of those things for His children. Temporary vs. eternal. My resources run out. We need to be mindful that God has given us the greatest tool of all in the Gospel so we need to not be ashamed to use it. In Romans 1:16 Paul said **"I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."**

This morning we will be looking at the Gospel from the book of Romans. Roman's road to salvation. Salvation is the overall theme and Paul's greatest desire for others. In our vision statement.

Gospel- Good news, good message, evangelium, something to be shared, proclaimed.

To be received by faith on the basis of Jesus' death burial and resurrection.

Romans 1:1-7 "Paul a servant (slave) of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle ("one sent by authority with a commission")

One of the requirements for an apostle was the experience of seeing the risen Christ. An encounter with God. God becomes real to you. **And set apart for the Gospel of God** (The good news, read 1 Cor. 15:1-11)

Originates with God not create by man **the Gospel promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding His Son**, It is all about what Jesus did not what we do.

Jesus is God. The Gospel is not a new message it was foretold through the prophets in the OT. Isa. 1:8, Chapters 53, 55, even they did not fully understand but preached what the Spirit told them. **who as to His human nature was a descendant of David, and through who the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.** Jesus is the center- a man, a Jew, the Son of God, born of a virgin into the family of David. The right to David's throne, the messiah the Jews were looking for "our Lord" **Through Him and for His name's sake, we received Grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles (the nations) to the obedience that comes from faith.** Because of Him we need to point people to Him. Heb 12:2 "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the Joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." **And you also were among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints; Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ."**

We are called by God. God's initiative. On our own we would not pursue God. Left Heaven. Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." (I'm a good person)

When you trust Christ you are saved by His Grace and you experience His peace.

Romans 1:16-17

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, In that culture the Gospel would have been seen as foolishness. Not received as valid. It identified with a poor Jewish carpenter who was crucified. Why put your faith in a Jew who was crucified?

Christians were not of the elite in that society, common people, even slaves. Imagine a tentmaker going into this powerful and prideful city preaching this message. Read 1 Cor. 1:18-25. Man's wisdom will deceive you. The foolishness of the Gospel will save you.

because it is the power of God (Paul's message came from God and is about Jesus. That should give us the confidence to proclaim the message of God and leave the results to Him.)

Waiters. **for the salvation** (deliverance) **of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.** The Gospel delivers sinners who believe from the penalty and power of sin. It should be our greatest desire that people come to know our Lord. Romans 10:1 "Brothers my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved." Not live in a better house or neighborhood, have a better marriage, not always be well. The salvation of others was the most important thing in Paul's life and it showed in how he lived his life.

Salvation by Grace through faith.

For in the Gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Righteousness-

God revealed His righteousness by punishing sin. He is a just God.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life."

God revealed His righteousness in the resurrection of Christ.

God revealed His righteousness by making salvation available to believing sinners. Not well behaving sinners. By faith not works.

The Gospel reconnect a Holy God with sinful man.

The Gospel is as easy as ABC

Admit that you are a sinner in need of a savior, that you are wrong. Tradition, death of past family members, pride are some stumbling blocks for many.

Romans 10: 8-10 "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Believe – comes from the heart but ultimately shows in your actions.

Believe the facts of the Gospel- Jesus was fully man and fully God, left heaven and came to earth, lived a sinless life, was crucified on a cruel cross as payment for my sins, through His shed blood I am declared righteous, He was buried in a real tomb but rose from the dead on the third day and ascended to the Father in heaven and is there now interceding for us, He lives inside of us in the person of the Holy Spirit and He is coming again and we will live with Him forever. Not head knowledge but heart knowledge.

Commit- What you believe will ultimately show in how you live. By the Grace of God commit your life to following Jesus and His ways. Release the control of your life to Him. Repent from any sins that are keeping you from following God. What God wants He gets.

The Gospel is a powerful tool. Many of us need to keep preaching it to ourselves. The Christian life is all about stepping out in faith and following God. With each step of faith we have the Gospel to help us admit when we are wrong, believe in Jesus and His power and commit our lives to him daily, moment by moment. The Gospel is real and we should not be ashamed to tell others about the one thing that they need more than anything else. Even if it sounds foolish. Preach the Gospel, it is the key to all of life. It is what people need more than anything else. God was faithful to give it to us so we should be faithful to give it to others.