

Subject: *Reasons to Believe the Gospel*

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

There is plenty of news reported in this world. Much of it is bad news and some of it is fake news. Some of it is important news and some of it is unimportant. I am preaching on the best news and the most important news of all, the good news about Christ. The Bible word for it is the Gospel, and it the good news about the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We live in a time when we cannot assume everyone has heard a clear presentation of the Gospel.

1. The Gospel is a message from God

Thomas Boston called it “a report from heaven.”

Proverbs 25:25 *As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.*

A. It a message with God’s authority

The Gospel is a message given by God. It is an important message because of its source. Everything in the Bible is inspired by God, and the gospel is one of the main truths in the Bible. The first four books of the NT are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

B. It is a message that must be preached

A man well known in church history is St. Francis of Assisi, and he famously said: “Preach the gospel at all times. Use words when necessary.” That’s a foolish statement. The gospel is a message and we must use words to preach (vs. 1, 2, 11).

1 Corinthians 9:16 *For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*

C. It is a message that must be received

1 Thessalonians 2:13 *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

D. It is a message to stand upon

It is the only foundation for our life. The gospel of Christ is a solid rock foundation. To stand upon the gospel of Christ is to stand in peace and grace and hope.

Romans 5:1-2 ¹ *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:* ² *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

E. It is a message to hold fast

To hold fast (KJV, keep in memory) means to believe it and hold it firmly. Anything less than that is to believe in vain (to no purpose). This is a warning about shallow, superficial faith that cannot save. It is faith that fizzles out. It is a dead faith that James speaks of.

James 2:26 *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

2. The Gospel is a message about Christ

In verses 3-4, Paul tells us the essential truths of the Gospel, and in verses 5-9 he tells us the confirming evidence of the Gospel. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. He was buried. He rose again the third day according to the scriptures. These are the three essential truths of the Gospel.

- A. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures – He died on the cross to make atonement for our sins (a sacrifice that satisfied God’s justice). He died as the OT scriptures predicted. He died in the place of sinners. He bore the curse of God.

Isaiah 53:6 *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

- B. Christ was buried – This proved He actually died. He stayed in the grave 3 days.

Isaiah 53:8-9 ⁸ *He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.* ⁹ *And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

- C. Christ rose again the third day according to the scriptures – He proved that He was the Son of God, and God proved that His sacrifice was sufficient and the debt of sin was paid in full. The resurrection of Christ was confirmed by “many infallible proofs” (Acts 1:3) and by many witnesses who saw Him after He rose again.

3. The Gospel is a message for all people

Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

The Gospel is a message for every person—for the Jew and the Greek, the young and the old, the religious and the non-religious, the educated and the uneducated, for the lost and the saved. God’s people need to hear the Gospel again and again. We need to hear the Gospel over and over because we tend to forget it. The Lord even gave us two object lessons so that we would never forget the Gospel—baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

The Gospel is a message we must hear, understand, believe, and obey. The Bible tells us to submit to Christ, receive Him as Lord and Savior, turn from our sins, and be saved.