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## The Importance Of The Gospel #2

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOSPEL

Int. Title of this message demands the answer to four questions.

1. What IS the Gospel? we compare the gospel?
2. What is the Gospel For?
3. To what should we compare it?
4. How important is the gospel? compared to what??

I. BEST BEGINNING IS TO LOOK AT THE WORLD BEFORE THE GOSPEL WAS BORN.

A. MAN in a "non-gospel" world:

1. In A.D. 33, the year Jesus died on the cross to give birth to the gospel:
  - a. Athens, Greece was the center of World Culture in the "Golden Age" of learning. CONDITIONS: 3 of 5 men in world in slavery!! Rome: Capital-city of the world had 1,600,000 population in men. 700,000 were freemen! 900,000 were slaves. Men butchered in Colosseum-Games for entertainment of the sports-mad Romans. Thousands of Christians thrown to the Lions.
2. WOMAN: CHATTELS of men, held about the status of furniture in the house. Greatest value: Satisfy the base-needs of man; Produce male-offspring to work in the father's shop, on his farm or at his trade.  
In Christ-less lands, like the Fiji Isles and India etc. WOMEN were burned alive on the husband's funeral pyre. Held socially in low estate.
3. State of Marriage: Man the boss and the owner of the family. Wife's rights on the level of the children's. MAN could terminate his marriage, according to one Jewish system in Christ's day for ANY cause! AMERICAN INDIANS, 1700S: A Christless society-women did all the hard work and produced babies to please the Father. She slept in the coldest corner of the wig-wam. HE: Hunt + fish!
4. CHILDREN: Male children most desired. Female children tolerated. Sons sent to schools. Girls not allowed. Not need an education. At times, and under some circumstances: the boys could be sold, leased, rented, loaned or given away. Life was cheap !!! Man was all-mighty! Some places: Exposed.

QUESTION: How many of us would like to live in such a "Christless-Society" BEFORE Jesus and the Gospel came into the world? 0 !!!

II. WHAT THE GOSPEL IS:

A. DEFINITIONS: GR.: Good Tidings, God's Story, Good News, Good Message, Christ's Message.

ALSO: Allusions to it: Any

- 1. First 4 books of the N. T.    2. One of these first 4.
  - 3. Whole N. T.    4. Country-Kid's def. Asked in class what Gospel is!
- Kids reply: "Gospel is what monna says!"

B. N. T. Allusions to the Gospel:

Gospel of: Hope, Peace, Assurance, Afflictions, Grace, God, Gospel of Christ, Gospel of Glory.

C. THE THREE BETTER SCRIPTURES IN DEFINING GOD'S GRACE IN THE GOSPEL:

- 1. \* Romans 1:13-18. POWER. POWER IN WORDS. POWER IN THOUGHTS. DIRECTION.
- 2. \* I CORINTHIANS 15:1-8. SAVING MESSAGE, INSTRUCTIONS, GUIDANCE, TRUTH !!
- 3. \* II Timothy 1:7-9. GOD'S TESTIMONY OF TRUTH. HIS POWER WHICH SAVES US.

*Ken S.  
Dae B.  
Richard L.*

III. WHAT THE GOSPEL DOES:

A. The gospel does at least 3 things: Attracts. Convicts. Motivates.

A. Attracted 3,000 on Pentecost. Philippian Jailer. Saul on Demascus road.

(John 12:19)

Truth-seeking CHURCHES. (John 12:21.) Jewish Pharisees: "Perceive ye how you prevail nothing against Him? Behold the world is gone after Him."

*attracts.*

B. The Gospel CONVICTS:

- 1. 3,000 Jews on Pentecost: Pricked hearts, cut, stung, pierced, stunned, etc.
- 2. SAUL - "total-fast 3 days in Demascus. Acts 9.
- 3. SIMON THE SORCERER. *Acts* Acts 8.
- 4. CORNELIUS. Heathen-idolatry past. Acts 10.

*ROMAN!*

NOTE: All these, and many more, heeded Prov. 23:23: "Buy the Truth and sell it not; also wisdom, instruction and understanding. THE GOSPEL was/is GOD'S WISDOM, INSTRUCTION, AND UNDERSTANDING."

C. The Gospel MOTIVATES:

- 1. IT KDID ME! (Please excuse the personal reference - happy to state the Gospel's motivational influence in my life - LIKE YOURS!)
  - a. Wrestled with "total committment" to Christ for months before baptism.
  - b. Had no answer to the Parable of the Talents. Was qualified. The Need great
  - c. Gospel motivated me to go to CHRISTIAN COLLEGE - meet Christ!
  - d. " " me to persevere in ministry over 50 yrs. Not easy.

(ministry for a career)

2. JACK BARTON - deacon at Pecan Park C of C. Chemical-salesman to oil drillers. 1st project- Cut out all cursing and foul language around him. Did.

*Houston*

3. ELZA MC FADDEN, Beedeville, Ark. Crop dust drifted into woman's fields.

4. (Knt. p.317. #1.)

Preacher said a few words lauding Jesus at an open-air meeting. CHALLENGED to a debate openly by an Athiest. Offered to bear all expenses for Place, advertizing, utilities etc. PREACHER: "I accept your challenge on one condition! Bring me a

ONE MORE GOSPEL STORY:

(over)

*Ungodly*

petition signed by 50 Athiests who have benefitted by your  
Athiestic-Philosophy. Also a list of hospitals, care-shelters,  
homes for orphans, homes for homeless-people, Food Banks,  
Clinics which benefit alcoholics, drug addicts and compulsive-gamblers  
and I will debate you.

In that debate I will SWAMP you with list-after-list of ;  
the world  
missionaries around/to lost souls, food banks,  
homes for working-mothers, night-shelters, hospitals, orphans homes  
and many more----all inspired by The Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel  
of LOVE, PEACE, and JOY. THERE WAS NO DEBATE !!!

1. \* I COGNITION I:1-1-8. SAVING MESSAGE, GUIDANCE, YOUTH !!  
2. \* I COGNITION I:1-1-8. SAVING MESSAGE, GUIDANCE, YOUTH !!  
3. \* I COGNITION I:1-1-8. SAVING MESSAGE, GUIDANCE, YOUTH !!

The gospel does at least 3 things: 1. Convicts, 2. Comforts, 3. Empowers.  
1. Convicts: The gospel convicts the heart, exposing sin and the need for a Savior.  
2. Comforts: The gospel comforts the soul, offering hope and peace to the brokenhearted.  
3. Empowers: The gospel empowers the believer, giving them the strength to live a new life.

1. 3,000 Jews on Pentecost: Filled hearts, cut, stony, skewed, stunned, etc.  
2. PAUL - total fast 3 days in Damascus. Acts 9.  
3. SIMON THE COCKER. Acts 8.  
4. CORNELIUS. Heathen-identity great. Acts 10.  
All these, and many more, heeded from (3:2): "Buy the truth and sell it not; also wisdom, instruction and understanding. The capital was/is GOD'S WISDOM, INSTRUCTION, AND UNDERSTANDING."

3. The Gospel Reference:  
1. IT WAS MY (Please excuse the personal reference - happy to state the Gospel's motivational influence in my life - LIKE YOUR!)  
a. Wrestled with "total commitment" to Christ for months before baptism.  
b. Had no answer to the struggle of the "I'm not ready" - just Christian!  
c. Gospel motivated me to go to Christian college - best Christian!  
d. As to perseverance in ministry over 30 yrs. Not easy.

2. JACK JAMES - deacon at Lebanon Park C of G. Chemical-salesman to oil drillers. Let protect-but cut all currency and soul language around him.  
3. KEN TO PARKER, Beaverville, Ark. Crop that drifted into woman's field.

President with a few words leading Jesus at an open-air meeting.  
Challenges to a debate openly by an Athiest, offered to bear all expenses for place, advertisement, utilities etc.  
Example: "I accept your challenge on one condition: bring me a