

SERMON OUTLINE

'PROMOTING THE GOSPEL'

Study - 2

'Knowing the Gospel'

1 Corinthians 15 v1 - 28

Key Point - Before we can verbalise the gospel (speak about it to people) we need to know the gospel. In other words - we need to know what we're talking about. Not everyone does!

Note - **The Corinthians received the gospel**

See - v1a & v3a. This isn't man's gospel - it's God's gospel.

The Corinthians believed the gospel

See - v2. This gospel was their confidence and hope - on it they took their stand. See - v3b.

Key Question - What is this gospel which saves - this gospel which we need to know?

1. KNOWING THE GOSPEL IN YOUR MIND

Definition of Evangelism - Archbishop William Temple:-

'To evangelise is so to present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through him, to accept him as their Saviour, and serve him as their King in the fellowship of his church.'

Key Point - The heart and focus of evangelism is Jesus - who He is (His Person) and what He has done (His work). This is of first importance. See - v3 - 4.

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF WHO JESUS IS

Notice that in speaking about Jesus, Paul uses the title - 'Christ' (the 'anointed One' - the Messiah). In other words - Jesus is God's King come to earth. That this is who He is, is supported by His words (see - Jn 7 v46, what He said) and by His deeds (see - Matt 11 v4, what He did).

Key Gospel Question - Who is this Jesus? See - Matt 16 v15f. If He is who He said He was, we can but do one thing - bow the knee to Him.

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT JESUS HAS DONE

Note - 2000 years ago 'gospel' was a media word - it was the word used to proclaim what the emperor had done.

Key Question - What is the good news concerning what Jesus, the Christ, has done?

(i) Christ died for our sins

See - v3

That Jesus died (as is the news of anyone's death) is bad news. That Jesus died for our sins, however, is good news.

Sin is the problem - Jesus in His death is the answer to the problem. See - Is 53 v5

(ii) Christ rose from the dead

See - v4. Two important points to note about the resurrection:-

(a) It's an historical truth

See - v5 - 8. Scripture proclaims it - history verifies it.

(b) It's a doctrinal truth

This is how we can be sure that our sins have been dealt with once and for all. See - v17 & v20a

2. EXPERIENCING THE GOSPEL IN YOUR HEART

We not only need to be clear about the gospel in our minds, this gospel needs to be a reality in our lives - and people need to see that this is so.

3. SPEAKING THE GOSPEL WITH YOUR LIPS

If this is the gospel, what do we then say if someone asks us how they can become a Christian?

A. THERE IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO ADMIT

B. THERE IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO BELIEVE

C. THERE IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO CONSIDER

D. THERE IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO DO