

## My Gospel

Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1989

### Romans 16:25-27

*“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.”*

The title of the message today is just two words, “My Gospel. The text is found in Romans 16: verse 25. The apostle writes, *“And now, unto Him, that is of the power to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of the Lord Jesus Christ”*.

In this text, and again over in Second Timothy Chapter 2:8, the apostle Paul calls the preaching of Jesus Christ *“my gospel”*. Why do you suppose he called the gospel of Jesus Christ *“my gospel”*? You might say, “Isn’t this God’s gospel?” Yes, but Paul called it, *“my gospel”*. Why do you suppose he called it *“my gospel”*? It was no slip of the lip. He said it twice, calling it, *“my gospel.”*

First, I believe he called it *“my gospel”*, because it was the gospel by which he was saved. It was the gospel by which he was brought to knowledge of the living God. Paul was very religious. Before he met Christ, he did not know God, although he was very religious. Paul had the ceremonies, he had the heritage, he had the training, and he had the theological training. He still did not know God.

He met the living God in the gospel. He said, *“I didn’t receive it from men”*, either. He did not learn it in school. He did not receive it as a tradition handed to him by his parents. He said, *“I was called of God. The gospel that I received, not from men; I was taught of God.”* That is true of every man who is really redeemed and really saved. He is taught of God.

Our Lord said that in John 6:44, *“No man can come to Me except My Father which sent Me draw him. I will raise him up at the last day.”* It is written in the Scriptures, *“And they shall be taught of God and every man that hath heard and learned of God the Father, cometh unto Me.”*

That is what Paul is saying, *“It is my gospel”* because it is the gospel by which I was saved. It is the gospel by which I was redeemed. It is the gospel by which I was rescued from false religion. It is the gospel by which I came to know the living God. *“It is my gospel”*; it is mine.

Secondly, I believe he called it “*my gospel*” because it was the gospel committed to his trust. He said that, “God hath committed the gospel to my trust. He has entrusted me with the gospel.”

He said, “*I know I have this treasure in an earthen vessel.*” I do not claim to be any more than any other preacher or any other child of God. But, I have been entrusted with the gospel. He taught me the gospel and God commissioned me to preach it. He put me in the ministry; he miraculously put me in the ministry, and gave me the gospel. He committed it to my trust.

Thirdly, I believe he called it his gospel because he was literally obsessed with it. He was obsessed with the gospel. It was his life. He said, “*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless; I live. Yet, not I but Christ lives in me. The life, which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.*” Christ is my life. “*When Christ, who is my life, shall appear, I’m going to appear with Him in glory.*”

He said to the Corinthians, “*I’m determined not to know anything among you.*” He was not promoting anything or anybody or any organization, movement or program. He was not promoting anything except Jesus Christ. “*I’m determined to know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*”

Oh, would God, that we had some preachers today who were not interested in promoting anything or anyone, but Jesus Christ the Lord. They need to preach Christ and “*my gospel*”.

Well, how did Paul defend his gospel? He claimed it, he loved it and he owned it. How did he define it? Well, if you want a clear-cut definition of Paul’s gospel, you will find it in the opening verses of Romans Chapter One. He writes this way in Romans 1:1, He says; “*Paul*”. He never called himself reverend, bishop, superintendent, doctor, right reverend, or father. The only man who ever deserved a title, wouldn’t take one. He was a very humble man. He was a man who gave God the glory. He wouldn’t take any titles. He always referred to himself as “*Paul.*” That’s all, just “*Paul.*”

He saw more, knew more, heard more, and was taught more than any man who ever lived. He never claimed any title. He said, “*Paul, a servant (bond slave).*” What is a bond slave? It is a loving, willing servant. He said, “*I’m a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and separated unto the gospel of God.*”

Here, he defines his gospel. He says first of all, *"It is the gospel of God; it is God's gospel."* It originated with God. *"Salvation is of the Lord."* The gospel originated with God. He purposed it in eternity past. *"Christ is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world."* The Book of Life is the book of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

God chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world. *"Known unto God are all His works from the beginning."* Nothing occurs in time that God didn't purpose in eternity. He purposed redemption and He purchased redemption. God did it; man didn't do it; God did it in the Person of His Son on the cross.

He applied it. Paul said, *"God who separated me from my mother's womb was pleased to reveal His Son in me."* God not only purposed the gospel and purchased the gospel, but He applies the gospel. He preserves those who hear the gospel and keeps those whom He saves. It is God's gospel.

It is of the Lord in its origination, in its execution, in its application, in its sustaining power and in its ultimate perfection. If any man winds up in glory, it will be God's fault, not his. That's right! *"Salvation is of the Lord. By grace are you saved through faith. That is not of yourselves; it is the grace of God. The goodness of God leadeth a man to repentance."*

Paul says this gospel that I preach is the gospel of God. Secondly, it is the gospel promised. In Romans 1:2, it is *"Promised by the prophets in the Holy Scriptures."* It is the ancient gospel. He said, "My gospel is no new gospel."

It is the gospel preached by Abel when he slew the lamb. It is the gospel preached by Noah when he built the ark. It is, *"The shelter from the storm."* It is the gospel preached by Moses when he slew the Passover Lamb. It is the gospel preached by Moses when he lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. It is the gospel preached by Moses when he smote the rock. It is the gospel preached by Abraham when walking up the side of Mount Moriah.

His son asked, *"Where is the lamb? Here is the fire; here is the knife; where is the lamb?"* Abraham said, *"My son, God will provide Himself a lamb."* He did provide Himself a lamb, right on that mountain. Mount Moriah is the same place as Mount Calvary.

He provided His Son as the lamb to take away sin. So, this is the same gospel. There is no new gospel. This is the gospel preached by Isaiah. It is the gospel of God. It is the ancient gospel.

You may say, "Wait a minute; hold the phone." He said, "*It is the gospel concerning His Son. Paul, a bond slave of Jesus Christ called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, which He promised before, by His prophets in the Holy Scriptures concerning His Son. This gospel is concerning His Son who was made.*" " *Who was made of the seed of David and declared to be the Son of God.*"

Words mean something in the Scriptures. The Bible is not a big Book. There are 66 Books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. It is a small book and each word means something. He said, "*This gospel is concerning His Son.*"

It is not concerning what you do with Him, but it is concerning what He does for you and in you and before God in your place. It is concerning His Word, not your word. It is concerning His sacrifice, not yours. It is concerning His faithfulness, His dedication, His righteousness, His representation, His death, His burial, and His resurrection. It is concerning His Son.

His Son was made of the seed of David. He was made of a woman. The Holy Ghost conceived Him in her womb by the Holy Ghost. His earthly life started at a definite point. "*He was made of the seed of David.*" David was His great, great, great, great, great grandfather. He was in the house and lineage of David.

He was born a Jew to fulfill all the promises to the Jews and the prophecies. He was the High Priest and the Tabernacle, along with all these ceremonies, sacrifices, and Holy Days including circumcision. "*He was made of the seed of David.*" He was the rightful heir to David's throne. He is the King of Israel; He is the Messiah. "*He was declared to be the Son of God.*"

He wasn't made the Son of God; He was already the Son of God. "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*" He wasn't made God; He is God. Do you see these words?

If we would quit screaming, stomping up and down in the pulpit and carrying on and start studying and believing God's Word, we might have a little hope, confidence, and assurance of a relationship with God and have an interest in His mercy. A man has got to know what he believes and whom he believes. He has to know where he stands and needs to know something about the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul said, "I'll define my gospel." Can you define yours? Can you define your gospel? *"Be ready to give a reason, an answer to every man that asks you a reason of your hope."* Paul said, *"My gospel is the gospel of God."* It starts with God and God executes it, applies it, and sustains it.

My gospel is the ancient gospel; it is no new gospel. *"Abraham wrote of me,"* Christ said. *"Moses wrote of me. Abraham saw my day."* Christ is that Passover and Rock. This gospel is concerning His Son. It is concerning Christ as the Surety of the Covenant, as the Representative of His people, as the Righteousness of His people, and the Redeemer of His people.

It is concerning His Son. *"Jesus Christ who was made of the seed of David, who was made in the likeness of sinful flesh. Who was made in the form of a servant,"* who was made a human being.

He wasn't made God; *"He was declared to be God."* He is declared to be God.

I will tell you this about Paul and his gospel; he preached the only gospel. He knew it and he wouldn't tolerate any other gospel. Paul was not very ecumenical. He preached the living God and he wouldn't tolerate anybody preaching any other kind of God. He preached salvation by grace and wouldn't tolerate salvation by works.

He said in Galatians, *"Though we or any angel from heaven preach any other gospel, let him be accursed."* *"I don't care who it is,"* he said. He didn't care who it was, him, or a fellow who claimed to be from heaven. If he preaches any other gospel (but what is of God, the ancient gospel and the gospel concerning His Son), *"let him be accursed."* He said, "I will repeat that; I will say it again, *"Let him be accursed."* *"This is my gospel,"* Paul said; *"this is my gospel."*

Now, every preacher today has a gospel. Every church has a gospel. Every religious person has a gospel and you have a gospel. You have a gospel, which we believe. We have a gospel to which we are committed, a gospel by which we will die. You have a gospel in which we will face a Holy God at the Judgment.

I have two questions: I'm going to answer these two questions for myself. I'll let you answer them for yourself. These two questions are as follows:

1. What is your gospel?
2. How do you know that your gospel is the gospel of God?

There's only one. *"I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God unto salvation."* There is only one gospel. Anything else is a perversion of the gospel.

What is my gospel and what is my hope? I will answer it for myself. My gospel exalts and magnifies a Sovereign, Unchangeable, Infinite, and Almighty God. I have no impotent god. I have no small God who wants to do things and can't do them. I don't have a God who wishes that men would let Him have His way. I don't know anything about that kind of god.

Like the Bible itself, my gospel begins with God. That is where it starts. The Bible begins with God. *"In the beginning God."* That is where my gospel starts. All things begin with God. The Lord Omnipotent reigns. The Lord God is Sovereign. He is Almighty in creation, in providence and even in salvation. He will save whom He will. Christ said, *"All that My Father giveth me shall come to Me, and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out."*

Yes sir, I believe in an Almighty, Sovereign God. I worship at His footstool. I bow before His throne and I preach Him willing, able and ready to do all that He purposed. That's right!

Secondly, my gospel recognizes a total and complete fall in Adam. Man is not sick; he is dead. Man in the garden didn't lose his sight in one eye; he is blind spiritually. Man in the garden didn't become lame on one leg. He is lame and cannot walk.

You see; our troubles began with one man, Adam. Yes, I believe in original sin. The Bible says, *"By one man sin entered this world and death by sin, so death passed upon all men. In Adam all died."* That is what the Word of God says. By man came death, spiritual death. *"You hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sin."*

My friends, there are several forms of life. There is mineral life, plant life, animal life, and human life. There is life in the rocks and minerals. Did you know that? That is why oil burns. There is plant life (plants and flowers live), they have life. There is animal life. There is human life and there is spiritual life.

As far above human life as human life is above plant life or animal life is spiritual life. That is what happened in the garden. Man died spiritually. He retained his human life, but he is dead spiritually. He doesn't know God.

*“No one knows the Father but the Son. No man has seen God at any time. God dwells in a light to which no man can approach.”* That is the reason Christ said, *“You must be born again. You hath He quickened who were dead.”* Your spiritual life is gone. To be regenerated or to be born again or saved by God’s power and by the Spirit’s regeneration, is to receive spiritual life.

That is the reason Christ said, *“He that liveth and believeth in Me will never die.”* Spiritual life can’t die. Human life dies. Mineral life, plant life, and animal life and human life will all die. They all go back to the ground. That is where they all came from, the dirt.

Spiritual life is the life of God. It came from Him. *“In Adam we die; in Christ we are made alive. The first man of the earth is earthy.”* That is where we got our human life.

*“The second man is the Lord from heaven.”* He never was of the earth. The life He gives is not of the earth. He can’t be buried in the earth and He can’t go back to the earth. The body returns to the dirt from which it was taken. It is Spiritual Life, the soul that God gave.

These people, who make fun of the new birth and talk about the new birth, don’t know what the new birth is. Most religious folks don’t know what the new birth is. *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh.”* Human life is from the top of your head to the bottom of your feet. *“That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.”* It ever lives and it can never die.

I believe in the Garden of Eden that life was taken from man. He retains only this dying form, this dying nature. He dies and goes back to the dust.

Thirdly, my gospel is based on a Covenant, a Covenant of Grace. The word Covenant appears in the Bible 250 times. This Covenant of Grace is an everlasting Covenant between the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Before the foundation of the world God knowing what would occur, God permitted what would occur.

The Lord God had a people. He chose a people. He gave a people to His Son. When the Lord Jesus prayed in John 17, He said; *“Father, You have given Me power over all flesh that I should give eternal life to as many as You have given Me. I pray for them. I pray not for the world; I pray for them which Thou hast given Me.”*

In John 6 He said, *“All that My Father giveth Me shall come to Me. Him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out. I came down from heaven not to do My will but to do the*

*will of Him that sent Me. This is the will of Him that sent Me that of all which He hath given Me, I will lose nothing.”*

Paul said, *“I thank God for you brethren, beloved of the Lord. God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation.”*

Back before the world began, God made a Covenant, an Everlasting Covenant. Christ is the Shepherd of the sheep of the Everlasting Covenant. He is the Surety of the Everlasting Covenant and God gave His Son a mediatorial kingdom and gave Him a people. The Son assumes surety of those people. He assumed responsibility of those people. He took upon Himself to be the King of the Covenant, King of the Kingdom, Messiah of the Messianic Kingdom and He came to this earth to fulfill it.

David rejoiced in that Covenant. When David, the King lay dying, he said; *“O though it be not so with my house, God has made with me an Everlasting Covenant. He has made me a Covenant, ordered in all things and sure. This is my salvation. This is my desire.”*

Yes sir, my gospel is a gospel of a Covenant. This thing of redemption started with God and it started a long time ago. There will be plenty of room in heaven but there will be no vacancies. Come on; come to Christ!

My gospel declares an Incarnate God. *“God Himself came to this earth in the form of a servant in the seed of woman in the likeness of flesh. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

The angel said to Joseph, *“Call His name Jesus; He will save His people from their sins.”* They called His name Jesus, which is fulfilling what Isaiah wrote, *“A virgin shall be with child, and Thou shalt call His name Immanuel, (God with us).”*

*“When it pleased God in the fullness of time, He sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law to redeem us.”* Jesus Christ came to this earth in the flesh as our Representative. *“By one man’s disobedience we were made sinners; by another man’s obedience we are made righteous.”* He came as our Righteousness, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made righteous before God.”* He came as our atonement. In Christ, we have the Atonement. He came as our Mediator. *“He ever lives to make intercession for us.”*

That’s our gospel, the gospel of the Incarnate God, the God-man. He is our Representative, Righteousness, Atonement, Mediator, and coming King.



My gospel is the gospel of faith and not works. *“It’s not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He hath saved us. By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified.”* I’ll tell you my friends; this is good news to the guilty. This is mercy for the miserable and this is help for the helpless. This is hope for the hopeless, covering for the naked and life for the dead. *“He’s the friend of sinners.”*

The worst thing that they could say about Him when He was on this earth is, *“Friend of sinners”* is the best news you ever heard. The Scripture said in First John, *“This is the record; God hath given us eternal life and this life is in His Son.”* He is the Incarnate God, the Redeemer. *“He that hath the Son of God hath life.”*

That’s my gospel. How do I know that it is the gospel of God? That is a good question. Let us answer it by the Word of God. How do we know that our gospel of God is the gospel and not another gospel? Can I give you six quick reasons?

My gospel gives God all the glory. That’s right! That is what the Scripture says, *“In all things that God may be glorified.”* He is going to be glorified. He said, *“I will not share My glory with another.”* When I preach my gospel, it gives God all the glory. If a man is saved, it will be by the power of God.

Secondly, this gospel that I preach is true to the Old Testament pictures and types. It is true to the Passover, the Rock smitten, Serpent lifted up, and Mercy Seat. It is true to the Old Testament. My gospel fits every type and picture in the Old Testament.

Thirdly, my gospel enables God to be Just and Justifier. It enables a Holy, Righteous, and Just God to save a sinner and be justified because a sinner’s sins are paid for. The sinner’s debt is paid. *“The soul that sinneth shall surely die. Sin when it is finished bringeth forth death.”* Our Representative died. Justice is satisfied. The law is honored. God said, *“Keep the law.”* I kept it in Christ.

Fourthly, this gospel is the only gospel for those who are sinners and have nothing to pay. The reason is because it is free. Tell me how the thief on the cross could be saved anyway but by grace? Come on, did works, going to the front and making a profession, tithing, or keeping the Sabbath save him? No! It is by grace alone.

My gospel is the only gospel that will keep a man saved. *“We are kept by the power of God through faith.”* It is not by our own wishes and wills. This is the only gospel that can give a sinner any real assurance and confidence. God did it and we didn’t.

