

What Is the Gospel?

Sunday, December 4th, 1988

Hebrews 10:14-22

“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience through dead works to serve the Living God? And for this cause, He is the Mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which were called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people saying, ‘This is the blood of the testament that God hath enjoined unto you’. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

The title of my message today is: “WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?” We are turning to the Book of Hebrews Chapter Ten. I’m going to be using several verses from the Tenth Chapter of Hebrews. I would like very much if you would open your Bible and read with me.

Those who preach the Word of God have a serious and solemn commandment from the Lord Jesus Christ, a serious and solemn commandment. Our Lord said to His disciples and to those who

preach, *“Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel.”* That is your assignment and that is your commission. *“Go to every creature, go into all the world, and preach the Gospel.”*

Those who preach have a serious and solemn warning from the apostle Paul who said, *“If any preach any other Gospel than that Gospel which I have preached, let him be accursed.”* Paul said, *“Woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel.”*

So, our Lord sends us forth into all the world to preach the Gospel. We are warned by His apostle not to preach any other Gospel. My question today is this, *“What is the Gospel?”* What is this Gospel that we are commissioned and appointed to preach? What is this Gospel?

For the answer, I am turning to the Book of Hebrews. I do not know a Chapter in God’s Word that is clearer on the Gospel than the Tenth Chapter of Hebrews. I wish that you would be motivated by this message to go to the Word of God and read the Tenth Chapter of Hebrews.

Hebrews Ten begins with the law. *“For the law, having a shadow of good things to come and not the substance or the image of those things can never with the sacrifices which are offered often make the comers thereunto perfect or acceptable.”*

In other words, the Old Testament law, the law of ceremonies, sacrifices, tabernacles, priesthoods and commandments, cannot make him acceptable before God. The laws of washings and days of do’s and don’ts are among 613 of these laws, commandments, ordinances, washings and sacrifices.

None of these things can ever, ever, ever justify a sinner. They cannot make him acceptable before God. They cannot make him perfect. *“By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in God’s sight.”*

You see; the law of ceremony and ordinances, the law of commandments and the law of the priesthood and the tabernacle along with sacrifices is a shadow. It is not the substance; it is not the real thing. It is a picture and a pattern. It is not now and it has never been the way to God.

You see; this law with its sacrifices can never make a man acceptable before God, but rather, it only brings sin to memory. It brings sin to remembrance. That is what verse 2 and 3 says. It brings sin to remembrance and it never puts it away. It cannot put it away; *“By the law is the knowledge of sin,”* not the cleansing of sin.

Preaching the law is not preaching the Gospel. Preaching morality, preaching good works and preaching religious duties is not preaching the Gospel. You see; the law is a word of wrath; the Gospel is a word of peace.

The law says, “You are a sinner.” That is all that the law can say to you; “You are a sinner and you shall be damned.” The Gospel says, *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”*

The law says, “Pay me what you owe or I will put you in prison.” The gospel says, *“Deliver him from going down into the pit; I have found a ransom (or payment).”* There is a Redeemer in the gospel of Christ. Do you see the difference?

The law says, *“You have not continued in all things written in the law to do them,”* therefore you are cursed. *“Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things written in the book of the law to do them.”* This is not to admire them or even to agree with them. This is to do them. So, you are cursed. The Gospel says, *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us.”*

The law commands perfect obedience. It can be satisfied with no less than perfect obedience. God said, *“To be accepted it must be perfect.”*

The Gospel commands one thing; there is one condition, believe, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”*

Let’s look at Hebrews 10: verse 5. Watch this; He says in the first four verses, *“The law is just a shadow, a picture and a pattern. The law can never make anybody perfect.”* Through the law comes a memory of sin or a remembrance of sin. *“It is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin.”*

This announcement in verse 5 says, *“Wherefore, when He cometh into the world.”* The law was given through Moses. It wasn’t given by Moses; it was given by God through Moses. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. *“Wherefore, when He cometh into the world.”* There is the Gospel and there is the good news. *“He cometh into the world.”*

In coming into the world, He brought grace. Grace flows from His lips. He brought truth and He is truth. Grace and truth didn’t come by Jesus Christ it came through Him. Grace came because of Him. There

is your Gospel! There is no Gospel in the law. The Gospel is a Person.

I ask several questions; Who is He? The Scripture says, *“Wherefore, when He cometh into the world.”* Who is He? He is the Saviour. When He came into the world, God put a star over His birthplace and sent the angels down to the Judean hillsides and these angels said to the shepherds, *“Behold, we bring you glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior.”*

Isaiah said, *“God is a Just God and a Savior. Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth for I am God and there is none else.”* He is our Saviour.

Christ is the *“Lamb of God.”* This is He that came into the world, He is the Saviour and the Lamb of God. John the Baptist, the last prophet of the Old Testament, John the Baptist the forerunner of the Messiah, when he saw Christ, said; *“Behold the Lamb of God,”* the Lamb to fulfill all of the lambs that had died before. *“This is the Lamb of God.”*

He is Emmanuel. The angels spoke to Joseph and said, *“Don’t be afraid to take Mary to be your wife, because that Holy thing which shall be born of her is the Son of God. You call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins and all of this that the Word of God through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled. Behold a virgin shall be with child and bring forth a Son and you call His name Emmanuel, God with us.”*

“He cometh into the world.” He, the Saviour, the Lamb of God, Emmanuel; He is the Word, the Word of God. *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”*

“He is God manifested in human flesh.” I can’t explain that; I just know it is so. *“This is a true saying and without controversy, the mystery of Godliness; God was manifest in the flesh.”*

He is the Son of God. He said, *“His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Unto us a Son is given. He cometh into the world.”*

What did He do? He literally and actually came into the world. Galatians 4 says this, *“When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law.”* Philippians 2 says, *“He took upon Him the form of a servant. He who thought it not robbery to be equal with God made Himself of no reputation, took on Him the form of a servant, was made in the likeness of men in the likeness of sinful flesh.”*

“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory.” What am I trying to say? In simple words, I am saying this; Jesus of Nazareth is God Almighty in human flesh. God came into the world born of a woman, dwelling in flesh and bones, in the likeness of our flesh and made Himself of no reputation.

Why did He come into the world? Why did He come? Paul, in writing to Timothy says this; *“This is a faithful saying and worthy of acceptance by all men, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save*

sinner, of whom I am the chief.” That is why He came into the world. He came to save sinners.

He said, *“I’m come into the world to seek and to save the lost.”* He said, *“I am come that they might have life.”* There is life to be found nowhere else but in Him. *“He is the way, the truth and the life.”*

He said, *“I am come to do Thy will O God.”* When He was going to the cross, He said in that High Priestly prayer, *“I have finished the work You gave Me to do.”* I have finished the work!

Why did He come into the world? He came into the world to save sinners. How did He save sinners? Are you familiar with these Scriptures? Are these Scriptures familiar to you? In Romans 5:19, it says this; *“By the disobedience of one, many were made sinners. So, by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”*

Who is that one in which many were made sinners? That one is Adam. Is that not right? *“So, by the obedience of one, many were made righteous.”* Who is that One? That is Christ. Paul says here in Hebrews 10, *“The law can’t help us, the law can’t perfect us, the law can’t bring us to God.”* Neither can all the ceremonies, all 613 of them.

“Wherefore, when He cometh into the world, He said; sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but a body Thou hast prepared for Me.” Who is the He? The *“He”* is Emmanuel, the Son of God our Saviour, the Lamb of God. He is the Redeemer.

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Who is the “*He*”? The “*He*” is Emmanuel, the Son of God our Saviour, the Lamb of God. He is the Redeemer.

He literally and actually came into the world. He said, “*A body you prepared Me.*” God prepared Me a body. I come in the body in the likeness of flesh in the form of a servant, born of a woman. He said He came “To give life. *‘I came to seek and to save the lost.’* He came that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” He came to save sinners.

How did He do it? It tells us here, “*By the disobedience of one, Adam, we were made sinners.*” You see; Adam disobeyed God’s Law and we fell. Christ came as a man in the flesh and was made under that law in subjection to that law and He obeyed it. By His obedience we were made righteous. Do you see that?

You have to learn something about this representation. It says, “*The first Adam is of the earth, earthy. The second Adam is the Lord from heaven. He came into the world.*” The Lord from Heaven came into the world. It says, “*In Adam we died; in Christ we are made alive.*”

“*By man came death,*” by this first man Adam. Death came by his disobedience, by his fall and by his sin came death. “*Death passed upon all men.*”

If I can put it in plain words, here is the gospel according to the Scriptures. Here is what the Scriptures teach from Genesis to Revelation. Listen to me, “*God made man in His own image.*” He made him upright and holy. “*He breathed into him the breath of life. He became a living soul.*”

God gave him a commandment, a covenant of works. He said, "*Obey and live.*" That is the covenant, "Obey Me and live, disobey Me and die." That one man, that first man, the father of all men, that root of all flesh, that representative fell. He died spiritually just as God said that He would.

He represents all men. The Scripture says, "*As by one man, sin entered this world and death by sin, so, death passed upon all men for all sinned. All have sinned and come short of God's glory.*"

We are sinners by imputation and we are sinners by representation. We are sinners by impartation; we are sinners by birth, nature, choice and practice in all forms.

Now, sin changed man from holy to unholy, from light to darkness, from life to death. Sin changed man and rendered him incapable, or not able to fulfill God's Law. Sin didn't change God's Law. Sin changed man, but not God's Law. God's Law is the same. It is still true, "*Obey and live.*"

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? It is He that hath clean hands and a pure heart who has never lifted his soul to vanity, who has never sworn deceitfully" (Psalm 24). That is still true. Sin changed man, but it didn't change God's Law. It didn't change God's nature, and it didn't change God's requirement. It didn't change God's commandments.

So, immediately after the fall, the Lord God announced His purpose of redemption through a Substitute. He immediately announced in Genesis 3, right after the fall, before He threw Adam out of the Garden of Eden, God announced the purpose of redemption in Christ Jesus.

He said to the serpent, *“The seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.”* That is Christ, the virgin-born Son of God. We are the seed of man; we are not the seed of woman. Christ had no human father. He is the Son of God and He is the Seed of Woman. God announced it right then, *“the Seed of woman.”*

As a matter of fact, all the way through the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi, God promised the Messiah. God promised the Redeemer. God promised the Savior. *“To Him give all the prophets witness.”*

This includes all the ceremonies and all the sacrifices, the tabernacle and the priesthood and all of these things in the Old Testament. This includes all of these slain lambs, all of these atonements and all of these sacrifices. All of these are pictures and patterns of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

He said, *“Abraham saw My day and was glad.”* He said, *“Moses wrote of Me.”* Paul said *“The rock smitten by Moses; that Rock is Christ,”*. That Passover Lamb that was slain in Egypt is Christ. *“Christ is our Passover.”*

God never had any pleasure or satisfaction in the Old Testament sacrifices and burnt offerings and atonements. Those were pictures. Those were patterns and shadows of the substance and not the substance of the Gospel.

You see; look at Hebrews 10:6, *“In burnt offerings and sacrifices and Old Testament pictures, God had no pleasure.”* God had no delight

and God took no satisfaction. The blood of an animal cannot put away the sin of a man. It is just a picture.

Then, said Christ; *“Lo I come into the world.”* I’m talking about Emmanuel, the Son of God. *“I come into the world. In the volume of the whole Book it is written of Me; I come to do Thy will O God.”*

Jesus Christ, the second Adam, the Lord from heaven, the Man Christ Jesus representing every believer, representing a covenant people, representing a Mediatorial Kingdom, came to this earth to do what God commanded and do what we couldn’t perform. He came to do what God required and came to do what we couldn’t supply. He came to do what the Holy Law of God expected. It was something that we could not fulfill, but He did.

Look there at Hebrews Chapter 10 again. Are you looking at it with me? Look at Hebrews 10:9, Our Lord said; *“Lo I come to do Thy will O God. He taketh away the first that He may establish the second.”*

What is the *“first”* that *“He taketh away?”* It means that He takes away the Old Testament Priesthood. He taketh away all of the Old Testament ceremonies and sacrifices and Sabbath days. He taketh away the Passover. He taketh away all of these things that were pictures.

You don’t need a picture when you have the person. You don’t need a pattern when you have the person. You don’t need that which is a type, when you have Him who is the fulfillment of the type. He said that He takes away all of these things. They are no longer in effect and they have been fulfilled. Christ came and fulfilled them according to the will of God.

He said, *“I come to do Thy will O God.”* Look at verse 10, *“By the which will, (by the will of God in Christ), we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all.”* Every believer is sanctified.

What is it to be sanctified? It is to be set apart. It is to be made holy. It is to be declared to be holy. In Christ we have righteousness. In Christ we have a fulfilled law. Do you see that? He is our Righteousness, He is our Sanctification, He is our Redemption.

Look at verse 11; He goes back and points to that Old Testament ceremony, sacrifices and tabernacles. He said, *“Every priest of the Old Testament standeth daily.”* Why do they always stand? They never sat down. They always stand.

There is not a chair in the tabernacle or temple. They always stood because their work was never finished. There were many of them and there were many sacrifices. They were never finished. *“They stand daily ministering and offering the same sacrifices over and over again.”*

“If these sacrifices could have made the comers unto perfect, they would have ceased to been offered. For the conscience once purged, would have no more conscience of sin.” There would be no more awareness.

They offered the same sacrifices, which can never take away sin. Look at verse 12, *“But this man, who came into the world, (this God-man, this special man), after He had offered one sacrifice for sin forever, sat down at the right hand of God.”* Who is He?

Do you see Hebrews 10? Paul takes all of these ceremonies, ordinances and sacrifices and says that they are not the real thing; they are just pictures and shadows. These things can't do it and they can't make you perfect. These things cannot justify you or bring you to God.

"But, when He cometh into the world," Who is He? Don't forget Who He is. What did He do? He came into this world in the flesh. It is necessary that our High Priest be tempted as we are that He be tried as we are. He represents us.

"He came into the world." What did He come to do? He came to give life. How did He give life? He gave life *"By one offering, one sin offering, and that of Himself."* It was His blood. It was not the blood of an animal, but His blood.

"He perfected forever them that are sanctified. After He had offered one sacrifice for sin forever, He sat down at the right-hand of God." He finished what He came to do! Our redemption is complete. Our redemption is secure by that one offering, by that One sacrifice, by that One life.

How in the world could One person, One man, satisfy God's Holy Law for so many? There are so many people, so many generations and nations of people. They are *"As the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore."* It is because of Who He is.

It is not just the death on the cross; it is Who died on that cross. It is not just the blood He shed; it is whose blood was shed. Paul said,

“Who is He that condemneth; it is Christ that died?” He is the God-Man.

Talking to the elders of the church at Ephesus, He said; *“Feed the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”* God did it. *“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”* It is Who He is. Do you understand that?

Adam represented a lot of folks, fleshly people. Our Lord Jesus Christ represents effectually His people. In verse 15, it says; *“The Holy Spirit is our witness. He takes the things of Christ and shows them to us.”* In verse 16 and 17 the Holy Spirit declares, *“This is the Covenant; this is the promise that I will make to them after those days”* of pattern and picture. *“I’ll write My Law on their hearts. I’ll write My law on their minds and their sins and iniquities I will remember no more.”*

“Now, where forgiveness is there is no more sacrifice.” We don’t need any more sacrifices. We don’t need any more messiahs. We don’t need any more offerings. *“By one offering, He has perfected forever. Their sins and iniquities I will remember no more.”*

Watch verse 19, *“Having therefore brethren, boldness to enter ourselves into the Holiest, into the presence of God by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way which He hath consecrated through the veil, that is to say, His flesh. So having a High Priest over the House of God; we have a High Priest. (He is none other than the Son of God). Let us draw near with a true heart and in full assurance of faith.”* Knowing that we will be received and will be heard and we will be accepted in the beloved.

Do you see the Gospel? When He cometh into the world by One obedience and by One sacrifice and by One offering He perfected forever every believer and ascended to the right hand of God and sat down. He says, *“Now; let every believer boldly come into the presence of God, boldly, with a true heart in full assurance of faith.”*