

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 24, 2018

### “What Makes the Gospel the Good News?”

By Brian Meade

For a variety of reasons the gospel of Jesus Christ contains good news for all of mankind! In fact, the Greek word euangelion, from which the word gospel comes from, literally means “good news” or “good message.”

The message of the gospel contains not only the divine love of God demonstrated, but also provides the answers to man’s greatest needs!

The gospel has:

- (1) **Facts to be believed** (I Corinthians 15:1-4).
- (2) **Commands to obey** (Romans 6:17-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
- (3) **Promises to be enjoyed** (Acts 2:38; Colossians 1:5)

#### **I. The Gospel is God’s Way of Salvation.**

God did not want man to be lost in sin and be punished— so He sent His only Son to die on a Roman cross, as a sacrifice for our sins (Isa. 53:4-12).

And right before Jesus left to go back to the Father, He gave His disciples the mission to preach the message of the good news of salvation made possible through His blood. Mark records, “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” *“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”*

You see, Jesus had to die to be the offering and shed His blood on our behalf (I Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 9:12-14) — But that is what the facts of the gospel message center upon. The response of man to the message is all-important in determining whether we are saved or lost. The wrong response is to disbelieve and disobey God’s message of love for mankind.

It is the very reason Paul felt an extreme obligation to preach the gospel to all who would listen to him. Paul said, “*I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “<sup>b</sup>But the righteous man shall live by faith.”* (Romans 1:14-17)

God placed the power of salvation in believing and obeying the gospel. It is God’s way of making men righteous before him as we live by faith. The good news is that God provided a way— when man had no way to save himself, by himself! But the fact that Christ died on a cross saves no one without the response that the gospel requires of obedience (Hebrews 5:9).

Notice the question that Peter asks in 1 Peter 4:17, “*For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?*”



Paul answers Peter's question by saying, *"dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power"* (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

The gospel contains the best news we could ever hear, but we must respond in faith and obedience to receive salvation from God.

## **II. The Gospel Settles Our Sinful Past.**

When we look at our past misconduct in sin, it is very often with regret and shame for the deeds we have done. We would love to change things and would do anything to go back in time to undo the mistakes and sins of our past, but we can't. And there are many who have a hard time with the deeds of the past and letting go.

But the good news of the gospel is that we can have a sense of closure to our past and move forward! God offers us a new beginning, God offers us a chance to start over with a fresh slate in the gospel. And that is awesome news to hurting hearts troubled by past consequences of sin! We all have sinned and need the forgiveness that only God can give to us (Romans 3:23; 6:22-23).

Notice the words of great comfort those receive— who come to God for release & forgiveness:

In **Isiah 1:18**, God was offering the Israelites forgiveness, as He said, *"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool."*

Twice God offers them a chance to start over, as God would not remember their sins against them any longer in **Isiah 34:25**, *"I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins."* (see also **Jeremiah 31:34**)

### **Micah 7:18-19**

*"Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity  
And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession?  
He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love.  
He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot.  
Yes, You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."*

What beautiful pictures of God's love & forgiveness expressed in words and concepts that we can appreciate what God does with our sins! And it is only with God's provision can we truly *"walk in newness of life."* (Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

## **III. The Gospel Reconciles Us To God.**

One of man's greatest needs, is to be reconciled to His Creator. Ever since the fall in the Garden of Eden, man lost that close intimate relationship that Adam and Eve enjoyed prior to sin being introduced to their lives.

Sin has always been a dividing line of fellowship between God and man. Notice the words Isaiah gives the Israelites concerning their prayers to God, *"Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."* (Isaiah 59:1-2)

But the power of the gospel makes us free from our past sins and restores our fellowship with God (2 Corinthians 6:17-18; 1 John 1:7-9).

Notice what Paul says about the effects of preaching the gospel in the world then, *"Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."* (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

The *"word of reconciliation"* or *"the ministry of reconciliation"* is none other than the gospel we preach today. It still reconciles man to God by obedience.

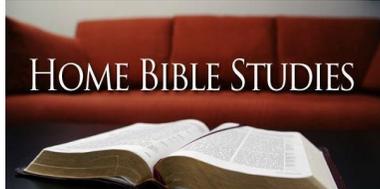
## **IV. The Gospel Gives Us The Hope Of Heaven.**

When someone believes and obeys the gospel, they now have a hope that they previously did not have— heaven!

Paul spoke of this hope of heaven in Colossians 1:3-6, *"We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth."*

The great motivation of obeying the gospel is not only escaping the punishment of hell— but receiving the reward of God in heaven! As we know from the scriptures, there are only two destinies that man can possibly have in eternity—heaven or hell. (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 22:14; Revelation 20:12-15)

Our desire needs to be with God and serving Him in the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus will lead us to heaven, if we follow Him (John 10:27-28; 14:1-6).



**HOME BIBLE STUDIES**

**A Women's Bible Class** will meet monthly at Miche, TN. at the home of Chris and Kathryn Callahan the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM.

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Martha Norvell (in Corinth Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain & Robbie Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Mike LaRue, Eric Potts, Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Robert Adams, and Velma Tucker, and Gaddy Hall.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:**

Daniel Holloway

**Preaching:**

Brian Meade

**Sermon:**

*"Our Commitment To God"*

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am**

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

Paul Johnson

The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)

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**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:**

Paul Johnson

**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:**

Paul Busby

*Psalms 25:1-5*

**Song Leader:**

Lee Busby

**Lord's Table:**

Fred Johnson

**Assisting:**

Daniel Holloway & Nathan Meade

**Singing Service:**

Men of the congregation Lead Singing

**Invitation:**

Brian Meade

**Closing Prayer:**

Tim Harris Sr.

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**June 27th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:**

Paul Busby

1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)

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**Invitation:**

Dan Cottrell

**Song Leader:**

Adam Harris

**Closing Prayer:**

Tim Harris Sr.