

THE GOSPEL IN MINIATURE

Romans 1:16-17

Rev. Waters made reference to this text last Sunday.

Small reduced scale - small copy.

Paul wrote V. 16, 17 - Therein, The Gospel - Power of The Gospel ✓

Christian religion has been doomed many times.

Funeral bells have tolled for its death - but like a ghost it comes back to life again.

Gospel is more alive today than ever before.

Gospel will always be needed and is relevent as long as man is on this present earth.

Since the basic (needs of man) are always the same, The Gospel will always meet man in that deepest need.

Romans is the first logical exposition of The Gospel.

Plainly told the work of Christ for the salvation of men.

Theme is V. 16 and 17 - Gospel in miniature.

Five Things the theme unfolds

I. The Gospel Is A Revealed Religion - V. 17

"Righteousness of God Revealed".

1. If revealed - then it is not of human invention. Man's wisdom, nor imagination never contributed to the making of The Gospel.
2. Man did not discover The Gospel.

Through centuries has discovered many things through his searching and research - but he never came up with The Gospel.

3. Gospel was not stumbled across or guessed at by man. Man in all his thoughts never imagined the God that the Gospel proclaims. No, it is revealed, God had to reveal it to man.

The word revealed is appco lipto - that which was (not) plain to man, God had to make plain to man.

God had to (make known) to man, what was unknown to man.

If it had not been the self disclosure of God through Christ we would not have had any kind of Gospel at all. The Gospel is sheer revelation.

II. What The Gospel Reveals Is The (Righteousness Of God) - V. 17

O. T. - Righteousness stood for two things:

1. God was righteous and could do no wrong.
2. God demanded righteous acts of man. They were to do good, not evil.

Both of these things are true today.

N. T. - Righteousness of God is God in Action!

He sees man helpless.

God is moved to compassion.

In the N. T. we see God and his willingness and offer to redeem man and save man. This offer is the righteousness of God. It is God in action.

III. Salvation Offered To Man Is Produced By the (Power of God.)

V. 16 - Seeks to deliver man from his bondage and set him free.

N. T. - Man in bondage to 5 terrible masters.

First, man is in bondage to his sins he can't stop them.

Second, " " " " the moral law " " keep it.

Third, " " " " fleshly lusts " " overcome them.

Fourth, " " " " world's system " " free himself from it.

Fifth, " " " " death " " deliver himself from the fear of it, neither can he extinguish death.

Man is in bondage to some new things today --

Bondage to his guilt

" " " economics

" " " government

" " " social environment

" " " war

" " " pollution of air and water

Man feels trapped, there is always something weighing man down. Keeping him down and he seeks earnestly to become free.

The power of God backs up The Gospel and he is determined to do all by his power he can do to deliver man from his bondage and set him free -- The Gospel is the power of God.

There are (11 major religions) in the world today - everyone of these religions makes many promises to it's followers.

Many times our students in colleges are thrown for a loss when they study comparative religions. Points out to them that they find many things in other religions that are in the Christian Religion, of course they will. There is some truth in all religions.

You can not have one God and two kinds of truth. Remind you of these religions with their promises to their followers.

The value of any religion is not valued by what it promises, but is determined by the power that it has to perform what it promises. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

What the Gospel promises, the power of God performs. And what is promised is that man can be delivered and set free.

When a man has experienced that then he can sing free at last, Thank God almighty I'm free at last.

IV. Salvation and Deliverance (Is Offered To All)

V. 16 - "To Everyone"

A genuine offer - without distinction or without difference.

In one way The Gospel is like natural law it is color blind - sex blind
- age blind - religions blind - social class blind - offered to all people.

Offered to religions and moral who do not think they need it.

Offered to its enemies who fight against it and who would do away with it.

Offered to the wise who do not think they need it and that they are above it.

Offered to the worst of men who think they are unworthy of it.

Offered to all willingly - God wants to deliver man and set him free now and for eternity.

V. This Gospel Is Obtained Through Faith

V. 17 - It becomes ours in faith and it continues in faith.

Faith is simply receiving and embracing the Christ whom God offers to us.

Why did God make it only by faith?

- (a) If too religious - would have excluded C. K. Chesterton.
- (b) If too moral - would have excluded John Newton.
- (c) If too healthy - would have excluded Madom Guyon.
- (d) If too educated - would have excluded John Bunyon.
- (e) If too white - would have excluded Ethel Waters.
- (f) If too rich - would have excluded Geo. Muller.
- (g) If too gentile - would have excluded Paul and me.
- (h) If too Jews - would have excluded the rest of you.

It had to be through faith.

For every normal mind can exercise faith in Jesus Christ. God in mercy will take care of the rest.

The Gospel is a great treasure which has been deposited in earthly human vessels.

This Gospel is a revealed Gospel telling man that God is willing to deliver man and set him free with a great salvation.

That this salvation is open to everyone that exercises faith in Jesus Christ.

That the power of God will perform in the soul of man this great deliverance.

Everyone of us is under pressure to divert from this Gospel.

As a preacher - I have theological pressure - social pressure - racial.

But let us not sell out our birthright of the Gospel for a mess of potage.

It is the Gospel that is the power of God unto salvation. That will deliver man.

The Gospel live it.

The Gospel witness to it.

And God will perform salvation in our hearers and his power will attend us who bear witness to it. I am not ashamed of The Gospel - it is the power of God to salvation to everyone.

John B.rough - Evangelist - Story - 2 little Boys - London Hospital.
Cots side by side - one fever, other injured by being run over by Heavy Wagon -
Boy with fever, very weak -

injured had said - "Say Willie it was down to the mission S.S. & they told me
about Jesus & I believe if you ask Jesus, He will help you,
They told us to pray & He would give us what was best for us."

"But suppose I was Asleep when Jesus came & could'nt ask him? asked the other."

"Just hold up your hand, Willie, when you sleep" suggested
his friend, "I think He'll see you & Bless you."

Willie thought his Arms were too weak & so Johnny took a pillow from
his bed and braced it under one of Willie's Arms.

The Boy went to sleep with his arm upheld.

In the morning when the Nurse came, she found that Willie had departed from this life.

Can we doubt that Jesus saw that upraised hand

as a true expression of Faith in Him?

Surely He took Willie through the gates
of the heavenly city to dwell forever with Him -

The just shall live by faith -