

Why Preach the Gospel?

Colossians 1:21-29

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is little excitement about the gospel today, preaching or hearing.
2. The New Testament paints a different picture.

(a) Preaching the gospel is a command, **Mark 16:15-16**.

1 Corinthians 9:16, For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

(b) It was often done at personal risk, **2 Cor. 11:24-33**.

Acts 5:40, And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

3. Why? A different kind of faith than is often the case now.

(a) Faith in the need

Acts 2:40, And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

1 John 5:19, We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one.

(b) Faith in the power of the gospel

Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

4. If we understand the WHY's of preaching the gospel We will see a renewed interest and zeal in preaching (and hearing) the gospel of Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION:

I. The gospel PERSUADES men.

- A. The philosophy of *determinism* is false (this is the philosophy of fate, there's nothing we can do by choice). Men CAN change.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- B. Those in sin need persuading. Sin comes from wrong thinking!

Mark 7:20-23, And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

- C. The gospel changes man's heart, the way he thinks.

Romans 12:1-2, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

II. The gospel can PERFECT men.

Colossians 1:21-22, And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

A. This was the object of Paul's preaching

Colossians 1:28, Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

B. Three characteristics (**vv. 21-22**)

- i. Holy – sanctified, set apart
- ii. Blameless (without blemish, “blemished items are cheaper”)

- iii. Without reproach (not only unblemished but free from the accusation of it.)

III. The gospel can PREPARE men

- A. Our hope is in heaven for which the gospel prepares us.

Colossians 1:5, because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

- B. It prepares us for difficulty, **Rom. 5:3-9**.

- C. It prepare us to share the message with others.

2 Corinthians 5:10-11, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

CONCLUSION:

1. The gospel effects man's past, present and future. It can persuade, perfect and prepare.
2. These facts should motivate us to preach it and obey it.