

THE GOSPEL OF THE SON OF GOD

BIBLE TEXT : Romans 1:1-17; Isaiah 52:7; 61:1-3; Matthew 4:23-25; Acts 20:24; Ephesians 6:18-20; I Thessalonians 1:5.

LESSON 380 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:7).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Romans 1:1-17

- ¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
² (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)
³ Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;
⁴ And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:
⁵ By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:
⁶ Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:
⁷ To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.
⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;
¹⁰ Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.
¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;
¹² That is, that I may be

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Gospel

1. Paul is divinely called and separated unto the Gospel of God, Romans 1:1, 5, 6;
Romans 15:16
¹⁶ That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.
Acts 9:15
¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:
Galatians 1:1
¹ Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)
1 Timothy 1:1
¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is* our hope;
2. The Old Testament Scriptures foretold the Gospel, Romans 1:2;
Acts 26:6
⁶ And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:
Galatians 3:8
⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.
Titus 1:2
² In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
3. Jesus Christ was made of the seed of David according to the flesh and declared to be the Son of God according to the spirit of holiness, Romans 1:3-6;
Luke 1:32
³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:
John 1:14
¹⁴ And 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.
Galatians 4:4
⁴ But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,
4. Paul sends greetings to the church at Rome and commends their faith, Romans 1:7, 8.
5. He longs to see them face to face and preach the Gospel to them at Rome, Romans 1:9-15; Acts 20:24; Ephesians 6:18-20
6. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes, Romans 1:16, 17; **1 Thessalonians 1:5**
Mark 8:38
³⁸ Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

¹³ Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

¹⁴ I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

¹⁵ So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Isaiah 52:7

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Isaiah 61:1-3

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are bound*;

² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

³ To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of

1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

2 Timothy 1:8

⁸ Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

7. The ministry of Jesus Christ was foretold by Isaiah and Saint Matthew, Isaiah 52:7; 61:1-3; Matthew 4:23-25.

NOTES:

Christ's Gospel

The Gospel of the Son of God is **The Gospel**. It is the only Gospel that has life in it, and the only Gospel that can produce life. It came from Heaven and was sent from God to destroy sin in the lives of sinful men. In Jesus was life and the "life was the light of men." Paul, in writing to the Galatians, said, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you . . . let him be accursed." There are many religions in the world but only one true Gospel.

Paul was divinely called and commissioned to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles. He had preached in Asia and in some part of Europe but up to this time had not been privileged to carry the Gospel to Rome. He expresses a desire to have some fruit among them as well as among other Gentile nations. He says, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

The Whosoever Will

Paul makes it very plain in this Epistle to the Romans that God puts no difference between the Jew and the Gentile. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but in Christ Jesus all can come to Jesus, repent and forsake their sins, be born again and partake of His holiness. The "whosoever will" may come from every race, creed, and colour.

It was a day of glad tidings to a lost world when God sealed the covenant between Himself and mankind by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. The whole world could go free. It was not a covenant with the Jews only, but with all nations.

The Nicene Creed

The Gospel comprises the whole doctrine as taught and practised by Jesus, as well as the history of His incarnation, birth, preaching, miracles, sufferings, death, resurrection, ascension, and the mission of the Holy Spirit.

The doctrine of the Incarnation as adopted by the Ancient Church is so concisely and impressively expressed by the Nicene Creed of A.D. 325, that we feel like repeating part of it here. "We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the virgin Mary, and was made man." Much truth is expressed in those few words.

The Divine Son of God

That Jesus was the divine Son of God was attested to by both believers and unbelievers. As Jesus hung on the cross the centurion and those watching with him said, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54). When the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to take Jesus, they came back without Him but had this testimony, "Never man spake like this man" (John

righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Matthew 4:23-25

²³ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

²⁴ And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

²⁵ And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, and *from* Jerusalem, and *from* Judaea, and *from* beyond Jordan.

Acts 20:24

²⁴ But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Ephesians 6:18-20

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

¹⁹ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰ For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

1 Thessalonians 1:5

⁵ For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

7:46). John, the beloved disciple, wrote these words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

Angels declared Jesus to be the Son of God. In Luke 1:30, 31, the angel Gabriel said: "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David."

When John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the river Jordan, God Himself spoke right out of Heaven and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Paul speaks about the Gospel of God, "which he had promised afore by his prophets in the Holy Scriptures." These prophecies were folded up in the Old Testament and unfurled in the New, bringing into the world a more perfect and glorious state of things.

Repentance

The first sermons recorded in the New Testament were on repentance. John the Baptist preached repentance, and so did Jesus. That has been the theme of evangelistic preaching from that day unto this.

We speak of God's message of salvation as the "Old-Time Gospel." It has been many centuries since Jesus proclaimed it along the shore of Galilee and from the hilltops of Judea. Though old, it is ever new and as fresh as when it was first brought down from Heaven to men. Saints and sages have sung its praises, and its refrain will re-echo throughout eternity.

**"'Tis the grandest theme through the ages rung;
'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal tongue;
'Tis the grandest theme that the world e'er
sung,
'Our God is able to deliver thee.'"**

The Resurrection

The devil has sponsored many religions, but nothing that could in any way touch the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the first, last, and only Gospel that has power in it.

His resurrection has never been duplicated. Men have denied it, scoffed at it, and tried to prove it was a farce; but it remains an established fact that Jesus arose from the grave.

Paul wanted to impress upon the Corinthian church the fact of the Gospel and the resurrection, and he wrote these words: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; . . . For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time" (I Corinthians 15:1, 3-8).

It was preaching the resurrection that brought Paul most of his persecutions for the Gospel, but he stood fearless and firm in his conviction that he had seen the Lord. How do we know that Jesus is alive? Because He lives in our heart.

A Mutilated Gospel

Never has the Gospel been so much mutilated as it is in these days. The very heart of it is being attacked by those who should be proclaiming its truths.

The divinity of Jesus Christ, the virgin birth, His atoning death, His resurrection and ascension, and His coming back again are all being denied by "atheists" in the pulpit. To them Jesus was a mere man and not the divine Son of God. The Revised Standard Version of the Bible deviates from the fundamental translations in many vital passages. The King James Translation of God's Holy Word is still the Bible for those who love the truth.

The Gospel in Action

Matthew tells how Jesus demonstrated the power of the Gospel as He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people. He heard the cry of poor, blind Bartimæus. He listened to the call of the leper, and put forth His hand and touched him and made him clean. There were none too poor, too low, or too diseased but that He had compassion upon them.

The Gospel of Peace

The world is weary and sick of war. The people want peace. But their eyes are blinded to the real source of peace. They are looking for an earthly leader to appear to restore a chaotic world to normalcy. One day peace will reign. But it will be when Jesus comes back and takes the government upon His own shoulders. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9).

There seemed to be two kinds of messengers among the Jews. One bore good tidings and the other evil. They were known among the people so that when they saw the messenger coming they knew what kind of tidings he was bringing. Isaiah got a glimpse of the messenger of peace, and exclaimed: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that published salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reingeth!" (Isaiah 52:7). May we be messengers of peace to a sinful world.

QUESTIONS

1. How many Gospels are there?
2. Who are included in this great plan of salvation?
3. Why did Paul long to go to Rome?
4. Tell what the Gospel will do for people.
5. Describe the different kinds of messengers.
6. What kind of tidings do you bear?
7. What about the Revised Standard Version of the Bible?
8. What brought Paul's heaviest persecutions?