

3rd of January 2016

The Gospel of Christ preached by Paul (Doctrine of the Gospel Pt 4)

Introduction:

This is our fourth study on the doctrine of the gospel. In our first three parts we looked at the gospel of the kingdom and established that the KOG and the KOH are **different**: the KOH is physical and earthly, and the KOG is spiritual. In our previous study we established the role of baptism:– (1) the gospel post–resurrection of Jesus was received following belief and baptism, and (2) the gospel post–Pentecost required baptism for the remission of sins, and (3) the gospel post–Paul’s encounter with the risen Lord **excluded** baptism for Jew & Gentile.

In this study we will begin the gospel of Christ that the Lord Jesus gave to Paul.

i) The Old Testament foretold of Christ’s death and that “He bare the sin of many” (Is.53: 12).

ii) The risen Lord Jesus revealed **this** gospel to Paul and sent him to preach (1Cor.1: 17), to be the minister unto the Gentiles (Rom.15: 16). Although Paul originally took the gospel to the Jews, they rejected it, and so Paul turned to the Gentiles (Acts 13: 46 & 28: 28).

iii) The gospel that Paul preached was known as:–

- * the gospel of Christ (1Thes.3: 2), and
- * the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2Thes.1: 8), and
- * Christ’s gospel (2Cor.2: 12), and
- * the gospel of His Son (Rom.1: 9), and
- * the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20: 24), and
- * the gospel of God (Rom.15: 16), and
- * the gospel of the blessed God (1Tim.1: 11), and
- * my gospel (2Tim.2: 8), and
- * the gospel of peace (Rom.10: 15), and
- * from 1Cor.1: 23 “we preach Christ crucified”.

iv) Those who believe the gospel of Christ are in the KOG, and in the body of Christ – the church.

Three points are established from the scriptures for this study.

The gospel, the good news that Christ gave to Paul to preach includes:

1. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.
2. And He was buried.
3. And He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Our three points in more detail.

1. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.

Supporting verse.

1Cor.15: 3 “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures”.

Context, setting and meaning of our verse.

- * The context and setting established for this point will apply to each of our three points.
- * In the previous three chapters Paul has been speaking about spiritual gifts, and he concludes chapter 14 with “Let all things be done decently and in order.” Then we have our verse of chapter 15, which is the only clear declaration from Paul of the gospel that he preached for a man to be saved. He says “I declare” (which is like “to make known”) “unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which ye have received, and wherein ye stand.” Verse 2 is clear that it is this gospel by which a man is saved, if ye keep in memory what Paul preached, unless a person believes in vain (which is like “without a cause”). Then we have our verse where Paul affirms that what he is about to declare as the “**the gospel**” he received it not from flesh and blood (Gal.1: 16), but from the risen Lord. And **that** gospel includes “how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures”. Let us look at each word that applies to our point.
“Christ” – Israel’s chosen Messiah, prophesied to be king, to rule physically in Jerusalem.

“died” – he didn’t just get translated like Enoch, but he died. His heart stopped beating and his lungs stopped taking in oxygen and exhaling CO2.

“For” – Christ the Messiah had a reason for dying.

“our” – is personal to you and I.

“sins” – Christ died “for the sins of the whole world” (1Jn.2: 2), which confirms that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom.3: 23).

Scriptural examples

1Pet.2: 24.

Application of verse today.

* Given that each of our points is from the same chapter, of the same book then the application established in this point will be applicable to each of our points.

* Paul was the minister to the Gentiles, he was writing to those in the church, in the body of Christ, as we are today, and therefore each point is applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* The Roman Catholic MASS is an attempt to re-enact Christ’s sacrifice on the cross in obedience to the church’s interpretation of: “Take, eat: this is my body” (Mk.14: 22), and “he took the cup... saying, Drink ye all of it” (Matt.26: 26). Every time the priest celebrates the sacrifice he repeats Christ’s sacrifice for the believers.

Learning from our Illustration.

* The central point to Paul’s gospel is that Christ died on the **cross for our sins**. Hence it is at the cross where our sins are dealt with, it is at the cross, where the cleansing takes place. And the scriptures affirm the sacrifice of Christ on the cross was for once only (see Heb.9: 26 & 28 are clear).

Challenge & or encouragement

* Central to Rome’s gospel is the kingdom of heaven is at hand, they are heralding in the kingdom with their Pope on the throne. Central to Paul’s gospel for this age is “Christ died for our sins”.

Central to Rome’s service of worship is a re-enactment of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. Central to the body of Christ’s worship is a remembrance of Christ’s death.

Let us remember that when we proclaim the good news today, we are to preach: Christ died for our sins, He “bare our sins in his own body on the tree” (1Pet.2: 24).

2. And He was buried.

Supporting verse.

1Cor.15: 4 “And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures”.

Meaning of our verse.

* The body of the Lord Jesus Christ was taken down from the cross and He was buried. And although He had a sepulchre that no man had been laid in before, His body essentially went to where all others go that die, to the grave, and His soul first went down to hell (Ps.16: 10).

Other scriptural support.

Rom.14: 9 & 2Tim.2: 8.

Illustration.

* I remember when my mother died and she was buried, she was put in a grave, and around her were many other graves with dead bodies. Flowers were put beside her grave with nice words written about her on the head stone. And from time to time (very seldom over the past 10 years) I go to the grave.

Learning from our Illustration.

* The graveyards are a testimony to the naturalness of a person being buried, and the finality of their death. Hence, the world looks at graveyards and sees them as places where those who have departed are buried. People go and talk to their loved ones because they believe that a person is their body. But when a body goes to the grave the person's spirit and soul have departed.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* It is natural for a dead body to go to the grave. What significance does the grave have in the good news of Christ crucified? The supernatural can only be seen as supernatural when it has a **natural** back drop to compare it with. Our first point was part natural and part supernatural, with the death of Christ on the cross being natural (for we all die), but then the supernatural is that He "bare our sins in his own body on the tree". Then our point is natural, Christ was buried. But the chief priests and Pharisees commanded that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, because Jesus told he would rise again on the third day (Matt.27: 62-66). Let us remember that His burial was a **natural** part of this good news message that Paul was given by Christ.

3. And He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Supporting verse.

1Cor 15:4 "And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures".

Meaning of our verse.

* Our point is simple enough to understand, Paul's gospel includes: Christ "rose again the third day according to the scriptures". In the context of Paul's writings the scriptures would have been the Old Testament. So we ask to what scripture was Paul referencing? We suggest: "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither will thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Ps.16: 10). The only way for this prophecy to be outworked is if the Holy One was resurrected.

Other scriptural support.

Rom.14: 9 & 1Cor.15: 20.

Illustration.

* Professor Lloyd Geering denied the resurrection of Christ and for that he was charged with doctrinal error in the Presbyterian church of Aotearoa New Zealand in 1967.

Learning from our Illustration.

* IF Christ be not risen then "ye are yet in your sins" (1Cor.15: 17), "we are of all men most miserable" (verse 20). Hence a man **cannot** be a Christian and **deny the resurrection of Christ**. A preacher today cannot preach the gospel without proclaiming that Christ who bore our sin on Himself, was buried, and is risen from the dead "according to the scriptures" (1Cor.15: 4). The resurrection is the second supernatural element of Paul's gospel.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* The kingdom gospel that Christ preached did it include "And He rose again according to the scriptures"? NO!

Remember that the good news Christ gave to Paul included that He rose from the dead on "the third day according to the scriptures".

Prove to yourself if the gospel that Paul preached, the gospel of the grace of God, the good news of Christ crucified, is different to that gospel which Christ preached, such that when someone tells you they are the same gospel you have the knowledge from the scriptures to show them that the gospel Paul preached IS certainly different to the gospel that Christ preached.

Summary of points

1. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.
2. And He was buried.
3. And He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.