

Declaring the whole counsel of God

Bulletin – Article 3.

MY GOSPEL – PART 1

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In closing his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul pens a benediction which gives a great summary of the gospel that Paul preached and taught:

“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith...” Romans 16:25-26.

There are five key points that Paul shares with us revealing how God establishes us. It is according to:

1. **My Gospel**
2. **The Preaching of Jesus Christ**
3. **The revelation of the mystery...now made manifest**
4. **The Prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations**
5. **The Commandment of the everlasting God for obedience to the faith**

Are you able to say the gospel is **yours**? The apostle Paul was convinced of the gospel he preached, and God wants us to own the gospel in the same way! What is your gospel? Let us align ourselves with the same gospel Paul preached and let it become **your gospel**!

ACCORDING TO “MY GOSPEL”

Meet the living Gospel

Paul says that God would establish us *“according to my gospel”*. Paul had made the gospel his; he owned it, he lived it and breathed it. **If you met Paul, you met the gospel.** When the gospel becomes yours, this means that it lives inside of you. It is part of your being. It is alive in you. You live by the gospel. Many preachers today share messages, preach sermons and even try to compete at who can do this better than the other. Paul’s gospel was the truth and reality that Paul lived by. Denominations have set statements of faith that you have to agree with be part of that denomination. Paul’s gospel was revelatory truth that he had received. It was a living doctrine imparted and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit!

Be straightforward about the truth of the gospel

When Paul saw Peter and Barnabas beginning to act like hypocrites, withdrawing from fellowship with Gentile believers when certain Jews came, he confronted them because *“they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel”* (Gal.2:14). In the beginning of his letter to the Galatians he says, *“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed”* (Gal.1:8). Paul was serious about this gospel! Are you? Has it become yours? Are you willing to live or die by this gospel? When the gospel becomes “ours” it gives us great authority!

Jesus is raised from the dead according to my gospel

Paul wrote to Timothy, *“Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel”* (2Tim.2:8). My gospel is the good news that Jesus, the Promised Son of David, has literally and gloriously risen from the dead. Paul also wrote in **2 Timothy 1:10** that *“Jesus Christ...has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”*. This gospel is the message of the abolition of death! Life and immortality come to light through *my gospel!* The gospel Paul preached and believed in was the *“gospel of Christ which is the power of God for salvation for all who believe”* (Rom.1:16). This gospel raises dead people to life! I know this because I was once dead in my trespasses but have now become alive in Christ through this gospel! (Eph.2:1,5-6). This is *my gospel!*

My gospel declares there is a new King!

The gospel is a declaration that there is a new king and that He has won a great victory! Jesus is the promised King, the Christ, who has ascended the Throne of David and who rules all things (Is.9:7; Matt.28:18; Acts 2:33). The gospel is a proclamation of the victory of the Messiah, that He has defeated sin and Satan through the Cross (1Jn.3:5,8; Col.2:15) and has *“abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”* (2Tim.1:10). The gospel is *“preaching in Jesus the resurrection from the dead”* Acts 4:2.

“Our gospel”

Not only does Paul call the gospel *my gospel*, but when writing to the Thessalonians he calls it *our gospel*, saying, *“For our gospel”* **1 Thessalonians 1:5a**. Paul, as an apostle, led an apostolic team, Silvanus and Timothy (**1Thess.1:1**), and this gospel was *theirs*. They embodied the gospel together. We are to have *“fellowship in the gospel”* (Phil.1:5) and be *“striving together for the faith of the gospel”* **Philippians 1:27**. This gospel is to be corporately *ours!* We are to be a company of disciples who own the gospel together, *“speaking the same thing...no divisions among us...perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement”* **1 Corinthians 1:10**. On the day of Pentecost Peter *“stood up with the eleven”* (Acts 2:14) and proclaimed the gospel! They were together in the gospel!

Our gospel comes in power

Our gospel is full of power and life, energised by the Holy Spirit! There is much authority when we function together in *our gospel!* Paul told the Thessalonians that *“our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake”* 1 Thessalonians 1:5. The gospel is not a “thesis”, it is not a “good idea” or a great “philosophy”. It has real and tangible effects on people. It comes with:

power – in Greek *dunamis* – which is dynamic, miraculous supernatural power the backing of the *Holy Spirit* – we are to *“preach the gospel by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven”* 1 Peter 1:12

much assurance – this is *full assurance, entire confidence* – we know the truth of the message and its total reliability and dependability

A lifestyle example – *as you know what kind of men we were among you* – a pattern of discipleship

To obtain the glory

Paul also writes to the Thessalonians in his second letter that they were chosen for salvation *“to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”* 2 Thessalonians 2:13. *Our gospel* calls people into salvation so that they can *obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ!* The gospel is a calling into the glory! Does the gospel you preach give people access to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ?

God wants this gospel to be established in you so that it becomes “your gospel!”