The Gospel And What It Means To Me

Intro: Paul writes in Romans 1:16 “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.” He had every reason in the world to feel “unashamed” of the Gospel. He was in the “soul saving” business and this was his tool.

I. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL

A. Generically
1. It means good news or good tidings:
2. It is good news of a victory; 1 Sam. 31:9 “9 And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people”
3. It is good news of a son; Jer. 20:15 “15 Cursed be the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A man child is born unto thee; making him very glad.”
4. It is good news of God’s anointed one; Isa. 40:9 “9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!”

B. Specifically
1. It is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; 1 Cor. 15:1-4 “1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 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; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”
2. That Christ died for our sins; Mat. 27:26-50
3. That Christ was buried; Mat. 27:59-66
4. That Christ was raised from the dead; Mat. 28:1-6

II. WHY IS THIS GOOD NEWS?

A. Because God had it planned that way.
1. God predetermined this; Acts 2:23 “23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”
2. Without shedding of blood there is no remission; Heb. 9:22 “22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”
3. We are healed by His stripes; 1 Pet. 2:24 “24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”
2. Jesus was the only one who could do this for all mankind; Isa. 53:1-2 “1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

B. Because Christ showed His great love that way.
1. God gave, but Jesus gave also; John 3:16 “16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
2. Jesus died for you and me while we were yet sinners; Rom. 5:6-8 “6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
C. Because it brings us salvation.

1. Jesus is the only one that can save; Acts 4:12 “12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

2. Rom. 5:9-10 “9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”

   a. We received:
   b. Justification by His blood.
   c. Reconciliation by His death.
   d. Salvation by His life.

3. Our salvation was costly; 1 Pet. 1:18-19, 25 “18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren,

   a. Redemption was by the precious blood of Jesus.
   b. We have hope in God because He raised up Christ; 1 Cor. 15:14, 18-19 “14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”
   c. God’s Word will endure forever: the Gospel.

III. Is This Good News To Me?

A. Yes! In simple terms I can understand.

1. Here is how it affected the Corinthians:

   a. 1 Cor. 15:1-2 “1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

   b. The Gospel was preached (heard).
   c. The Gospel was received (accepted).
   d. The Gospel brought salvation.

2. How did they accept it?

   a. They obeyed a form of doctrine; Rom. 6:17 “17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”

   b. It was a form of the facts; 1 Cor. 15:1-4 “1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 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; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

   c. The actual obedience; Acts 18:8 “8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”
3. Jesus Himself preached of this plan.
   a. Mark 16:15-16 “15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   b. Preach the Gospel.
   c. He that believeth.
   d. He that is baptized.
   e. Shall be saved.

B. No! If we do not receive it like the Corinthians did.
1. This is “bad news” if we reject it.
   a. We will be judged by it; John 12:48-50 “48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
   b. If we love Christ, we will do as He commands; John 14:15 “15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
2. This is “bad news” if we disobey.
   a. What shall be their end; 1 Pet. 4:17 “17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”
   b. Punishment is for those who obey not the Gospel; 2 The. 1:6-9 “6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

Conclusion: That is what the Gospel means to me—my soul’s salvation. We can rejoice with Paul because of the Gospel’s great power in our lives; Rom. 1:16 “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.”