Preaching The Gospel Of Christ

Intro: Let me direct your attention to 1 Cor. 1:17-18 “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” The first of these verses have caused great disturbance to many, even in the church. It has been used to advance the false theory of the non-essentiality of baptism: That baptism is not a part of the gospel. But is that what Paul is teaching in this passage. If this is what he is teaching then he contradicts himself; 1 Cor. 1:11-16 “For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 12Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. 13Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? 14I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; 15Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. 16And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.” There were schisms, based upon who baptized them. Paul did baptize there. He is teaching against the sin of division which came into the church because those who had been baptized were attaching themselves to the ones who had baptized them. If you are going to divide because I baptized you, I wish I had not baptized any, is what Paul is saying.

I. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?
A. It means good news or glad tidings.
B. It is God’s power to save.
   1. Rom. 1:16 “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.”
   2. 1 Cor. 15:1-2 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”
C. It is what God wants preached.
D. 1 Cor. 15:3-4 “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

II. THE GOSPEL MUST BE OBeyed.
A. Obedience.
   1. 1 Pet. 4:17 “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?”
   2. 2 The. 1:6-9 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 6And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 7In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
   3. Facts cannot be obeyed; only as commands are related to those facts. Example, fact, the lights are on; command, turn them off.
   4. Rom. 6:17-18 “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. 18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
   5. Rom. 6:1-7 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his
Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 4For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 5Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 6For he that is dead is freed from sin.”

6. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

7. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

B. Paul would not contradict that which he knew and taught.

C. The emphasis here is on the gospel, not baptism.

1. You can dunk people in water and they not be saved.
2. That is what Paul is emphasizing. It is the gospel that saves.
3. Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
4. John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
5. In preaching the gospel the result is baptism.
   a. Acts 2:14-36, 38-41, 47 Jews
   b. Acts 8:5-13 The Samaritans
   c. Acts 8:26-40 The Ethiopian eunuch
   e. Acts 10:1-48 Cornelius
   f. Acts 16:13-14 Lydia
   g. Acts 16:25-34 The Philippian jailor
   h. Acts 18:1-17, 8 The Corinthians cf. 1 Cor. 1:14, 16 “I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;...” And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.”

6. Unless baptism relates itself to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ it is worthless.

III. The Cross Can Be Made Of None Effect.

A. If the gospel is not preached then the cross is made of none effect.

1. No direct operation of the Holy Spirit.
2. The only way God works today is by the preaching of the gospel.
   a. 1 Cor. 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
   b. Rom. 1:16 “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.”

3. Thus, we must preach the gospel to every creature.

B. By the wisdom of words.

1. Context shows this to be man’s wisdom.
2. If man changes or alters the gospel it is made of none effect.