

Sunday Celebration (December 14, 2008)
"The Gospel Commission"

Welcome to Lakeview (Pt. 6)

INTRO

- The Entrance Plaque ... is an Invitation
- The Exit Plaque ... is a Commission

Matt 28:19

GOSPEL

GO AND DO WHAT? GO AND SAY WHAT?

- *Is Christianity some form of Humanitarian Aid Organization with Religious Overtones?*
- *Is Christianity "One Way among Many Ways"?*
- *Is Christianity Central & Essential to Defining Every Human Being's Existence?*

Mk 16:15 "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole of creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Notice the GLOBAL/UNIVERSAL RELEVANCE

Jesus Was VERY CLEAR: "Go Everywhere (to Everyone) and Proclaim ONE THING to them All — the Gospel!!"

What is the Gospel?

“ I formulate the Gospel this way: it is information issuing in invitation; it is proclamation issuing in persuasion. It is an admonitory message embracing five themes.

1. God ... the God of Christian theism
2. Humankind ... made in God's image but now totally unable to respond to God or do anything right by reason of sin in their moral and spiritual system
3. The Person and Work of Christ
4. Repentance ... turning from sin to God, from self-will to Jesus Christ
5. New Community ... a new family, henceforth to function under the one Father as a family and a fellowship

J.I. Packer, "Collected Shorter Writings", vol 2, p. 44

“ In the case of the Gospel, the content includes a diagnosis of the hearer's state and needs before God, value-judgements on the life they live as compared with that which might be theirs, and a call to judge themselves, to acknowledge the gracious approach and invitation of God in Christ, and to respond by a commitment more radical and far-reaching than any other they will ever make; and the Gospel is not fully communicated unless all this comes over.” **J.I. Packer**, "Collected Shorter Writings", vol 2, p. 213

“ Evangelism in a postmodern context must be much more thorough, progressive, and process-oriented. There are many stages to bring people through who know nothing at all about the gospel and Christianity. ... The problem with virtually all modern evangelism programs is that they assume listeners come from a Christianized background, and so they very lightly summarize the gospel (often in minutes) and go right to stage "intimacy" (personal commitment). But this is no longer sufficient. ... until people's minds and worldviews have been prepared, they hear you say "sin" and "grace" and even "God" in terms of their own categories. By going too quickly to this overview you guarantee that they will misunderstand what you are saying.” **Timothy Keller**, "The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World", p. 114-115

Why is the Gospel Our Mandate?

1. **It's God's Instruction** – Whether or not that matters to us has everything to do with whether our view of the Universe is MAN-Centered or GOD-Centered
2. **The Gospel is Man's OXYGEN**

1Co 15:1-4

- **The Focal Point of the Gospel** (v. 3-4) – The person and work of Christ
- **It is of First Importance** (v. 3)
- **It is Essential to Salvation** (v. 2)
 - **Rom 1:16-17**
 - It Saves Us from the Penalty of Law-breaking
 - It Saves Us from the Power of Sin and the Dominion of Satan

QUESTION: *How Much of Man's Woes are Flowing Out of the Power of Sin and the Dominion of Satan?*

“ What must you do if you lack the humility, love, joy, and confidence you need to face the life issues before you? You should not try to move on past the gospel to “more advanced” principles. Rather, you should shake yourself until more of the gospel “coins” drop and more of the fruit of the Spirit comes out. Until you do that, despite your sound doctrine you will be as selfish, scared, oversensitive, insensitive, and undisciplined as everyone else.” **Timothy Keller**, “The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World”, p. 112

.... Man Suffers through a Complicated Dysfunctional Existence BECAUSE he is Unplugged From God and Doesn't Have the Power to Change

The experiences of Anxiety... Depression... Obsessions... Addictions to Pleasures... Rage... Guilt... Control/Manipulation... are all the manifestations of the Soul Unsatisfied and Ununited with God and therefore UNABLE to be set free from Sin and the Dominion of Satan

- **It must be Received** (v. 1)
- **It must be Practiced** (v. 1)... it must be a Present Reality and Not just a Past Decision

“What must you do if you lack the humility, love, joy, and confidence you need to face the life issues before you? You should not try to move on past the gospel to “more advanced” principles. ...” **Timothy Keller**

- **We Need to be Reminded**

GOThe Posture and Preoccupying Mind set of the Disciple

“Paul came to Corinth with the aim he had wherever he went: to communicate the gospel with a view to converting his hearers. He unites these two concepts in the single word he often uses to describe his ministry: persuade. “We persuade men” (2Co 5:11). We persuade men to receive and respond to God’s truth. ... Communication with a view to conversion ought never to be a matter of dispute among evangelicals. Beyond all question, this is our given task.” **J.I. Packer**, “Collected Shorter Writings”, vol 2, p. 233

- Lives containing and expressing the gospel to the world (in holiness and lifestyle) are not mere personal preferences, they are an element of “going”
- Managing your finances so that you can give tithes and offerings is not religious taxation or church dues, it’s an expression of “going”
- Prayer and personal evangelism are activities of going
- Alpha and Mercy Ministries and Orphanages are not merely church programs, they are a means of “going”
- Church planting is not a programming dynamic, it is a means of “going”