

Preaching the Gospel message

All Scripture is KJV: 2 Thessalonians 1-12

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE GOSPEL?

Today I want to preach about the gospel message itself.

- ✓ What is its significance?
- ✓ And how was it possible for Abraham to get saved in the OT. In Genesis 15:6.

Genesis 15:6 King James Version (KJV)

⁶And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

- ✓ Then all through the NT it becomes the main theme of the scriptures toward man.

In 2 Thessalonians chapter 1 Paul puts great emphasis on those who do not obey the gospel of Christ. Why?

1. What is so important about it?
2. What is the gospel?
3. And why should we have it?

- ✓ To start off with here are some scriptures in which the gospel is referred to.

Romans 1:15

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the **gospel** to you that are at Rome also.

Romans 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.

Romans 10:15

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the **gospel of peace**, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:16

But they have not all obeyed the **gospel**. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

Romans 11:28

As concerning the **gospel**, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes.

Romans 15:16

That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the **gospel of God**, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Romans 15:19

Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the **gospel** of Christ.

Romans 15:20

Yea, so have I strived to preach the **gospel**, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

Matthew 4:23

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Matthew 9:35

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, **and preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 11:5

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the **gospel preached to them.**

Matthew 24:14

And this **gospel of the kingdom** shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Mark 1:1

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

Mark 1:14

Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the **gospel of the kingdom of God**,

Mark 1:15

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Mark 8:35

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake **and the gospel's**, the same shall save it.

Mark 13:10

And **the gospel must first be published among all nations.**

Luke 9:6

And they departed, and went through the towns, **preaching the gospel**, and healing every where.

Luke 20:1

And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and **preached the gospel**, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders,

Acts 8:25

And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the **gospel** in many villages of the Samaritans.

Acts 14:7

And there they preached the **gospel**.

Acts 14:21

And when they had preached the **gospel** to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

Acts 15:7

And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the **gospel**, and believe.

1 Corinthians 1:17

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.

1 Corinthians 9:14

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the **gospel** should live of the **gospel**.

1 Corinthians 9:16

For though I preach the **gospel**, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the **gospel**!

✓ **The gospel is also defined for us in 1 Corinthians 15**

1 Corinthians 15 King James Version (KJV)

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:

Galatians 1:6

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another **gospel**:

Galatians 1:7

Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the **gospel** of Christ.

Galatians 1:8

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other **gospel** unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:9

As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other **gospel** unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:11

But I certify you, brethren, that the **gospel** which was preached of me is not after man.

The gospel brings salvation:

Ephesians 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the **gospel** of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Hebrews 4:2

For unto us was the **gospel** preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

1 Peter 1:25

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the **gospel** is preached unto you.

1 Peter 4:6

For for this cause was the **gospel** preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

1 Peter 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?

Revelation 14:6

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting **gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

- ✓ So clearly the gospel is absolutely necessary to be saved.
- ✓ If you don't believe the gospel you cannot be saved.
- ✓ When the Apostle Paul addressed the Thessalonian church he shared the gospel to them, and told them that Gods vengeance would be upon those who did not believe the gospel.

1. Many people struggle with the idea of how did people get saved in the OT?
2. But it's easy to deal with once you know what the gospel is?

3. Remember that if it saved Abraham this was before the giving of the Law and the 10 commandments?

Lets read.....

2 Thessalonians 1 King James Version (KJV)

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

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;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ✓ Last week I brought a message about the need to go out and preach the gospel because it is our greatest marching orders of the Christian faith; because it was the message given by Jesus not only to the disciples, but to all those who follow Jesus Christ.

- ✓ Remember the gospel message was even given prior to the crucifixion of Jesus.
 - ✓ Think about how also Abraham was saved?
 - ✓ Was not the gospel given to him also?
 - ✓ Was that not how Abraham got saved?
- First of all I want to say this from the outset? Don't limit Jesus just to the NT.
 - Because Jesus was also in the OT, and besides that He is also eternal because he is God.
 - Yet some people try to limit Jesus as only the NT Savior.

So to ask a Question:

1. Why would I want preach about the gospel seeing that we all profess here to be saved?
2. Well it is not for us here to get saved if that is the case,.....but it is for us to know what the gospel is so that we can be very clear about the message we should give to others who have not heard the "real gospel" message.

Another reason why I want to speak about the gospel is:

1. Because a lot of the time the truth is watered down or concealed in the message that people are trying to portray about how to get saved and have eternal life.
 2. It may not be intentional the way that you share the message of Christ incorrectly, but at least we should know how to deliver the true gospel when we have the opportunity to do so.
- ✓ So.....If we are going to speak about the gospel we need to get a definition from the scriptures themselves.

Romans 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.

1. Straight away we know from Romans 1:16, that the gospel is connected to Christ.
 2. We also know from this verse that it has the power of God unto salvation.
- ✓ **So let's begin.....the word gospel is mentioned 98 times in the bible.**
 - ✓ **And yet all those 98 times are all in the NT.**
 - ✓ **So if Abraham we said got saved by the gospel; how do we reconcile that with scripture.**

Here is how.....

The Gospel Preached to Abraham.

- ✓ How were people saved before Jesus died and rose to justify the believer?
- ✓ How was Adam saved? How was Abraham saved?

✓ Were they saved by the Law?

1. This was impossible for all of them lived before the giving of the Law.
2. Abraham knew absolutely nothing about the Ten Commandments given to Moses upon Mount Sinai.
3. Clearly the bible declares that the Law was not given to Israel until four hundred and thirty years after Abraham was saved (Galatians 3:17).
4. Without a doubt Abraham was not saved by keeping the Law, nor was he kept saved by it.

✓ So.....How then was Abraham saved?

The Bible goes to a great length to tell us.

1. In the first three chapters of Romans Paul had gone in detail to prove that no one ever was saved by works, or regulations, or laws, but by grace only.
2. He comes to the final conclusion in Romans 3 when he said this.

Romans 3: 28 “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law”

✓ And because the Pharisees found it hard to believe, Paul used something that would appeal to their ego.

1. Paul refers them to “father Abraham,” revered and honored by all.
2. He asks, “How was Abraham saved?”
3. By the Law, or by grace?”

❖ Paul’s reply to his own question to them was this:

❖ **“What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?”**

1. For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.
2. For what saith the scripture?
3. Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
4. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.
5. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness” (Romans 4:1-5).
6. Abraham was saved by believing, long before the Ten Commandments were written upon tables of stone.
7. How then was he saved? Paul asks, “What saith the Scripture?” (Romans 4:3) The final word on any question or matter is, “What does the Scripture say?” Was Abraham saved by keeping the Law? Paul’s answer to this was. . . **“Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Romans**

4:3). Note exactly what this verses says, **“Abraham believed God.”** It does not say, **“Abraham believed in God”** – but Paul writes, **“Abraham believed God”**

8. Of course, Abraham believed in God. He could hardly believe God, until he first believed in God. “...he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). A person may believe in God and be lost forever. Only a fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” But simply believing in a God – some kind of a God – is not enough.

✓ So the question is:

“Just what did Abraham believe?”

1. He believed not only that God existed, but he believed what God said.
2. Abraham believed the Gospel.
3. He believed the Gospel, the Good News of the virgin birth, the atoning death, and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Listen to the inspired words in Galatians 3: 6-12

Galatians 3:6-12 King James Version (KJV)

⁶Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

⁷Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, **preached before the gospel unto Abraham**, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

⁹So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

¹⁰For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

¹¹But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

¹²And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

- ✓ The Gospel In this passage; we see that Paul contrasts faith and the Law, and proves that Abraham was saved because he believed the Gospel.
- ✓ To the question, “What did Abraham believe to be justified?” the answer is, “He believed the Gospel.”

✓ **So.....to understand what Abraham believed, we must define what we mean by “the Gospel.”**

1. The Greek word that is translated as “Gospel” is **“evangelium”**. Which means “Good News.”

2. Often the Gospel is defined as the Good News, speaking of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Which we see Paul use in 1 Corinthians 15that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures”.
3. **This definition is the one we often see used for the Gospel, but there is more to the Good News than that.** The Good News also includes the virgin birth, the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The birth of Jesus was declared to be the Gospel by the angel on the hills of Judea. The angel announced, ...

Luke 2:10-11 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, **I bring you good tidings** of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

- ✓ The word translated **“good tidings”** is the **same Greek word, “evangelium”** which is translated as the **“Gospel.”**
- 5. The supernatural birth of Jesus is part of the Gospel.
- ✓ The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ. For it is the power of God unto salvation.
- ✓ Abraham realized it, and that’s why he was saved by it.

PRAYER.....CLOSE