

Answering Basic Questions (Part 5): What Is the Gospel?

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: 1 Peter 3:15

In our text, Peter explained that each Christian needs to be ready to give an answer for what we believe. Giving a defense for the HOPE within us requires an ability to articulate the basics of our faith. In this series, we are going to discuss some basic questions that may arise. This is to help reinforce our own faith and help prepare us to teach others as opportunities arise.

What Is the Gospel?

- We often talk about the importance of preaching the gospel – but what does that mean?
- The gospel is foundational to our faith – we can (and should) be able to concisely explain it to others

The Gospel Is “Good News”

- This is the literal meaning of the Greek word (euangelion) translated gospel in our English Bibles – it denotes a proclamation/announcement; of necessity, it is a message that must be preached
- The work of preaching is that of bringing good news (Romans 10:15) – why good news? [notice the next three points]

The Gospel Is the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus

- At least this is the foundation of the message – “of first importance” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4); “in which...you stand”; it was the solid ground; basis for our faith, hope, and life
- Without this, nothing else in the Bible would matter – faith would be worthless (1 Corinthians 15:17-19)

The Gospel Is the Message of Salvation

- Paul said it is the “power of God for salvation” (Romans 1:16) – it reveals the way to be saved; when we obey the gospel, we “reenact” the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:17, 3-6)
- This message is for everyone, regardless of background or past sins (Acts 10:34-35; 1 Timothy 1:15)

The Gospel Is Our Standard

- After declaring that the gospel is “the power of God for salvation” (Romans 1:16), Paul said that God will judge us according to the gospel (Romans 2:16) – this is the message that has been preached
- On the last day, we will stand before the Lord in judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10) – we will be judged according to what has been revealed in the gospel; whether or not we have followed it

Conclusion

- So what is the gospel? – it is the good news of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection from the dead
- It is the message of salvation that shows us how to be prepared for judgment – so let us believe it and obey it