



The Gospel :: September 28, 2008

I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting **men may know there is none besides me.** I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things. "You heavens above, rain down righteousness... Let the earth open wide, **let salvation spring up, let righteousness grow with it;** I, the LORD, have created it. "Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker...do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands? It is **I** who made the earth and created mankind upon it. **My** own hands stretched out the heavens; **I** marshaled their starry hosts. **Ignorant** are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods **that cannot save...**there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. "**Turn to me and be saved,** all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. **By myself I have sworn,** my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: **Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.**

- ❖ Every person, from every nation, from every time will bow before their creator and declare Him holy.
 - Not every person will live in His presence for all of eternity.
 - Is the Gospel real to me?

Why study the Gospel?

- ❖ To examine our own salvation (**2 Corinthians 13:5-6**)
- ❖ To be prepared to explain our hope in full (**1 Peter 3:15**)
- ❖ To battle against our enemies deception (**2 Corinthians 4:3-5**)

The Gospel must be...

- ❖ Understood.
 - We must present the cross as a picture of both grace and wrath.
 - The bad news: **Romans 3:10 – 18**
 - The good news: **Romans 3:21 – 22**

- Key questions that must be answered:
 - If God loves us, why do bad things happen?
 - If God is good, why does He punish sin?
 - What happened on the cross that secured our salvation?
 - Why is just believing the gospel not enough to be saved?
(**1 Corinthians 15: 1- 2**)

- ❖ Experienced.
 - When we experience the gospel it will impact our life because the gospel is power. (**Romans 1:16**)
 - Christ' work on the cross was not just for a future rescue from hell but for a present day transformation.
(**2 Corinthians 3:18**)
 - Key questions that must be answered:
 - What is the assurance that we have experienced the gospel?
 - What does Christ expect from me?
 - What DID Jesus mean in Matthew 7:21?
 - How do I live in light of the gospel I have experienced?

- ❖ Proclaimed.
 - The gospel completely changed the way people experience God.
(**1 Kings 8:41 – 43 and 1 Corinthians 6:19**)
 - In the OT the nations came to the temple, but today the temple goes to the nations.
 - Key questions that must be answered:
 - What is the most effective way to share my faith?
 - What can be done about all of my fear?
 - How can I possibly proclaim the gospel in the midst of all of my despair?
 - How do we reach an ever-changing culture that is increasingly deceived by God's enemy?

Life Point: Every person, from every nation, from every time will bow before their creator and declare Him holy, but not every person will live in His presence forever. 'Is Christ in me?' is the most important question that we can ask of ourselves or encourage others to ask of themselves. Eternity hangs in the balance.
(**Revelation 20:11 – 21:4**)