

The Gospel "By which also ye are saved"

by Dov Avnon

1 Corinthians 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; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

When we look around, we find the so-called Christian denominations, without exception, saying that they preach the gospel of Christ. Catholic – Protestant – Pentecostals or Baptist: all of them have Jesus Christ somewhere on their agenda.

The Cross, the resurrection, water baptism, The Law: all being mixed up, so that, at the end of the day, many people do not have a clear understanding of the gospel "By which also ye are saved" that Christ gave to Paul for this dispensation of grace.

"Moreover, brethren" – Why first the brethren? – Why not Brethren and sisters? Paul has much to say about the man who should take his position in bringing the clear gospel of grace to the world. It is the man who should teach and make sure that the Church follows Paul's teachings. Paul often mentions the word BROTHERS in his letter to the Corinthians, because if something goes wrong in the Church, it is because the man did not take position, as he should have done from the very beginning:

1 Timothy 2: 11-13 "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve."

"the gospel which I preached unto you" - Paul made sure that his listeners heard the gospel that he was preaching. It was Paul who preached to the Church, the body of Christ and not PETER, JAMES and JOHN (who lived at the same time.) The Corinthians, and we too, should follow the gospel that Christ gave to Paul, because it is THIS gospel that concerns our salvation.

Please compare the following verses to see the context of this subject:

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."

Acts 13: 38-39 "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

Peter, at that time, preached the remission of sins which took place after the person had repented and been baptized in water. Paul was preaching forgiveness from God based **only** on believing the gospel of the grace of God. We now have the forgiveness of our sins **only** through the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 1: 7 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

The following scripture shows one of the main reasons why we need to understand the gospel which Paul was preaching:

1 Corinthians 1: 1-2 "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."

Received – stand - saved

The gospel of the grace of God is an "all-inclusive" gospel. Many people are teaching GOSPEL + (repentance, water baptism – church membership etc.) The gospel that Christ gave to Paul for us all-inclusive.

1- **Received** – we need only to receive the truth that Jesus Christ (God in the flesh) died on the cross for our sins and that He rose again for our justification – all we need to do is to receive this truth by faith.

2- **Stand** – This means to stand in the truth that we have just received. Here in the Netherlands many people know the gospel but are not sure that they are saved. Why not? Because they are not standing **ONLY** in the gospel of the grace of God. Christian religion has spoiled people so that that they are not able to TRUST ONLY in the gospel.

3- **Saved** – This is the most part of the power of the gospel of Grace – SALVATION. The truth that Christ gave to Paul about Christ's death and resurrection can save us. You do not need to repent or be baptized in water. All what we need to do is to **Receive** :

1 Corinthians 1: 4 "if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

People say "IF – IF – IF" - so what about this IF?

Today, we see that there are many different gospels. I call them "look-alike gospels." They sound like the real thing, but they are not the real thing at all.

Here are some of the exhortations that denominational Christianity is making, in their attempted outreach to the unsaved:

"Give your life to Christ"

Christ does not need our life – in our unsaved state we are dead in trespasses and sins. What will God do with the life of a dead person, when He says that He wants to give each of us a new life? So this is a failed invitation on the part of the person who is making it.

"Give your heart to Jesus"

Again, God is not asking you to "give your heart to Jesus." This is an empty invitation that has no scriptural basis for salvation.

There are many other expressions and invitations that people are using in our day and age to tell people about Christ and they are all **IN VAIN** because they have no basis for salvation in the Word of God.

There is no point in arguing with someone if they believe that such invitations are correct. Salvation is not about what each one of us chooses to believe about Jesus.

The REAL question is, as to whether or not we have a **SAVING FAITH**. We each need to ask ourselves the question: "Is my faith able to produce eternal life with Christ our Lord?"

The TRUE gospel invitation is this:

Romans 10: 9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

1 Corinthians 15: 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 3:8 "And the scripture, foreseeing....."

"I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received "

Many people have a problem with the gospel that Christ gave to Paul. They know much about the time when Christ was on earth but very little about the gospel that Paul was preaching.

So now, Paul makes it clear to everyone about **"that which I also received."** It is Christ who gave Paul the gospel of salvation that we need to believe and which we need to be teaching people under this dispensation of grace.

2 Corinthians 5: 20-21 "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

So, brethren and the sisters in the Lord, let us be strong in God's grace – we need to **listen** to what Christ gave to the Apostle Paul for us to **believe** and **follow**:

2 Timothy 4: 1-5 "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."